

Maclean's

Canada's Weekly Newsmagazine

September 18, 2000 www.macleans.ca \$4.50



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At the millennial Games in Sydney, our team has gold in its sights



Swimmer
Marianne Limpert

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BY

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October 18, 2000 Vol. 17, No. 39



Editor

Let the Games coverage begin

Since *Maclean's* became a news magazine 25 years ago next month, we have given more extensive coverage to amateur athletics and the Canadian Olympic teams than any general magazine in the country. And with good reason. It is a proud record, full of spine-tingling drama and heart-wrenching emotion. *Maclean's* reporters were in Montreal when high-jumper Gary Joy cleared the bar in 1976 to win silver, in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia, when speed skater Gertjan Boucheer won three medals in 1984 and in Los Angeles when Victor Doss and Alice Baumann swam for gold in 1984. We were there when Brian (Doss and Baumann) barked on ice in Calgary's Saddledome and Ben Johnson tested positive in Seoul (1988).

The coverage also embraced Kerrie Lee-Gartner's stunning downhill triumph in Albertville, France (1992), Mark Tewksbury's gold in the pool at Barcelona (1992) and burliness Myrman Hedlund's historic double gold in Lillehammer, Norway (1994). In 1996, there was the bomb blast that rocked Atlanta, plus Marlene McBeane and Kathleen Hedlund's rowing triumph and Donovan Bailey's sprint to gold in the 100-m—*all on the same day*. And two years ago, *Maclean's* staffers were on hand to witness the gold-silver finish by speed skater Cornelia Le May Doss and Susan Auch in Nagano, Japan.

The tradition weighs heavily on the 311 Canadians who will march into Stadium Australia later this week, not least because of Canada's 22-medal haul in Atlanta four years ago. The *Maclean's* team recording the exploits of 15,000-plus athletes from 198 countries—and



Games from Olympics past, Lewis (left) with Bragg, Doss and Phillips (top right), Featheringhams each carry

filling duty to *news maclean's* on—includes Sports Editor James Doss, who is covering his fifth Olympics and Photo Editor Peter Bragg, his seventh. The comparative rookie is Winnipeg Bureau Chief Andrew Phillips, whose first Games experience was in 1992 at Albertville. Columnist Allan Featheringham also will be casting a sardonic eye on the doings in Sydney.

"It's impossible not to be swept up in the special atmosphere that surrounds the Olympics," says Phillips, who admits to a soft spot for his own sport, soccer. Bragg has topped U.S. sprinter Carl Lewis winning his first gold medal in Los Angeles and last year in Atlanta, and Johnson in Seoul when

he won gold in the 100-m dash—and lost it in a drug scandal. Reflecting on the 18-hour days and the new digital camera equipment he is lugging, Bragg says: "The Games are not the vacation some of my friends think they are."

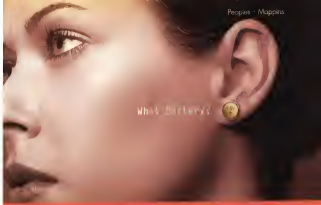
Doss knows that better than anyone. Still, he adds, his rapport with the Canadian athletes makes it "rewarding to be able to say I'm from *Maclean's*." This access allowed Doss special insights as he organized this week's special 22-page Olympic preview, graced with exclusive photos by Bragg, Chris Morrice in Vancouver, Todd Kasol in Calgary and Pierre-Paul Poudon in Montreal.

The coach of the squad is Executive Editor Bob Lewis, who has reported from two Olympics and overseen the previews and coverage of six past Games. "For all the hype and scandals," says Lewis, "the Games still have an undeniable power, youth, struggle, heroism, heartbreak—it's just a very rich story." Adding to the depth is a team of dedicated backstage hands. The design of this week's package was by Associate Art Director Gaudie Sébaste, who is working on her eighth Games production.

All of us agree with Doss: "At the Games, the stories of the strongest athletes capture all of us. More than the high-speed past, they deserve our attention." And our appreciation.

Robert Lewis

reporter@maclean.ca or comment on From the Editor



What's better?

...the most beautiful and most powerful of all the things that the world has ever known. It is the most beautiful and most powerful of all the things that the world has ever known. It is the most beautiful and most powerful of all the things that the world has ever known. It is the most beautiful and most powerful of all the things that the world has ever known.



A WATCH FOR ALL TIME

Canada at its best

I was pleased to see Lucy Maud Montgomery as one of the 25 "Canadians who inspired the world" (Cover, Sept. 4). My great-grandfather on my mother's side was Lucy Maud Montgomery's father. May have named Lucy Maud as a mere one-bit wonder, and simply a writer of children's books. The truth is L. M. Montgomery was really the first truly international Canadian writer, and although she had to go south to the United States to find a publisher, she nonetheless paved the way for every future writer born in this country.

Douglas Cornish, Ottawa

Grateful thanks to Margaret Hillier and Norman Hillier for your cover story. Having lived in three provinces in Canada during my nearly four-decade years, I couldn't agree with you more when you

write that the country's failure to properly track its history, and that it is now crucial that we know more about our past in order to move on as an independent nation. But I am amazed that Sir William Somerset Maugham, born

in Wingham in 1896, and known as "limp," the biggest private eye of all (Maund, Dec. 1, 1952), was not included. According to your own article, Sophenson was a "Canadian millionaire who, during the Second World War, became the mastermind of British intelligence throughout the Americas."



Gerritson M. Soper, Victoria

Your article on Lester B. Pearson left out one important fact: He was not only a most remarkable man of world peace, he was the prime minister who gave Canada its flag, which, when seen at international events such as the Olympics, brings tears to the eyes of Canadians.

Alison Haglund, South Surrey, B.C.

This interesting and enlightening series of articles clearly demonstrates that Canada need not gratify to any country—big or small.

Vince Gotschall, North Okanagan, B.C.

It gave me great pleasure to know that my great-great-great aunt, Dr. Leonora King, was chosen to be among your 25 Canadian visionaries. And without author Margaret Nagodoff-Torok and her book *Woman Due*, Canadians would never have heard of Aunt Leonora, her great accomplishments and her impact on the women and children of Tientsin (now Tianjin), China, during her 47 years of caring for their medical needs.

Nancy Howard Dutton, Toronto

It was an absolute pleasure to read about Margaret Atwood and her long-awaited 10th novel, *The Blind Assassin*

Joint exercises

In 1989 Brian Pollner and I co-edited a Progressive Conservative party task force of men and women from every region of the country. Our unanimous report, a product of 40 meetings across Canada over an eight-month period, said "jointly nominated candidates are a non-starter from the point of view of participants at the Canadian Alliance consultations." I was therefore very surprised to read in your article that "Clark then rejected the task force's recommendation that the Tories and the Alliance consider running joint candidates in some ridings to end the vote-splitting that helps elect Liberais" (Trebble's Times, Canada, Sept. 4). This is sloppy journalism and a direct contradiction of our task force report. Pollner and I are now be disavowing that report. That's his business, but the Progressive Conservative party made us intentions clear.

Lilley Buchanan, Toronto

in "Maugham's museum," (Books, Sept. 11), as well as in your article about Canadians who inspired the world. Margaret Atwood is a phenomenon: a metaphor for Canadian culture, a member of who we are as a people ingenious, complex, complicated, intense, assertive, yet inspiring, intriguing and unassuming. We need not look much further for a definition of Canadian culture. She does it best.

Antoinette Du Val, Mississauga, B.C.

My wife and I have just returned from an overseas assignment where we were fortunate enough to be based in the wonderful country of Singapore. While there, we had the opportunity to participate in the last two Terry Fox runs, typically run in early September. The significance is that Singaporeans are honoring Terry Fox as a global hero in the fight against cancer. They see his determination and courage as a role model for any culture. To stand halfway around the world, among 10,000 Singaporean runners and participants, and listen



Letters to the Editor

Maclean's Magazine Editors
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to their leaders describe the Terry Fox story being an intense sense of pride as a Canadian. He truly has inspired that part of the world.

Bill Graham, Toronto

Your interesting article about schools and Canadian history ("Reopening the history books") contains an important message: History, a private foundation dedicated to make Canadians more aware of their history is not a branch of the CRB Foundation. The CRB is a major contributor, but the idea came from Bud Wilson, the now-retired chairman of BCE Inc., who put up \$500,000 of his own money and used his outsize efforts to grow and cabinet the Foundation.

Magnus Kilian, Lethbridge, Ont.

Tory leadership

Under the leadership, a term used in its broader sense, of Joe Clark, the Progressive Conservative party is certainly on the road to extinction ("Troubled Tories," Canada, Sept. 4). Clark shows neither the strength of character nor vision of leaders who build great organizations. In fact, Clark has a perverted view of the political landscape, preferring to live in an insouciant world of Tory goodness and not the real world of decline. A person in such a position, with such a distorted perspective, is an irresponsible, selfish egomaniac who puts himself above the needs of the party, to its detriment.

Ian Bush, Orleans, Ont.

I strongly disagree that the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada is on the process of disintegration. Due to defections to the Canadian Alliance, the Conservative party is left with a more moderate fiscally conservative and a socially responsible, small-c conservative. Red Tory membership. The moderate message of the PC party will always appeal more to Canadians than the right-wing message of the Canadian Alliance, just wait and see.

Wayne Kennedy, Halifax

Cell comparison

Your article on the most recent technology mega-megat ("Wireless connection," Business, Sept. 4) seriously compares Canada's cellphone use with that elsewhere, most notably Europe. In Britain, the delays in installation and the sheer annual cost of a residential landline phone have made the cellphone the preferred option for many. And, as traditional landline phone use is also tilted by the market, cellphone plans often offer more favourable billing options for the more responsible difference in cellphone service elsewhere is that, most times, the use is billed only for outgoing calls. If someone calls you on your cellphone, it is the caller who is billed the cost, not you. This is precisely not the case in North America. Add to this the often patchy service offered by cellphones in Canada and it may be why we're seen to fall so far behind other countries in usage. Let's not imply it's because we are technophobes—we just aren't given the same service as elsewhere.

Barry W. Davis, Toronto

Your article on phone companies and what they offer is misleading. Not there is one company and not connected—one. When someone enters up with a phone with a \$10-a-month and a 10-minute time allocation, which would be sufficient for me to call 911, I'll subscribe.

Shelia Galt, Surrey, B.C.

Natural selection

Survivor was all about entertainment—aggressively clear is what attracted approximately 6.4 million Canadian viewers to the final episode ("Last man standing," Television, Sept. 4). Instead of Jane O'Hara discussing the show as "nothing more than a ratings," she should really be asking why the CBC does not produce any shows that 6.4 million Canadians watch. The \$1 billion spent annually on the CBC is an astronomical sum in today's world.

Peter V. Vassili, Richmond, B.C.

Macleans

Canada's Weekly Newsmagazine

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A salute to our companion hunting dogs



Thousands of Ontario residents and millions of North Americans enjoy the companionship of hunting dogs that not only can keep us working dogs, but serve as family pets and companions.

Dogs have been human companions for thousands of years. Originally domesticated from wolves, dogs have evolved with specific abilities and attributes. Hunting dogs are among the oldest breeds, selected for their ability to aid in a successful hunt for food.

The relationship between people and dogs has always been a two way street; working together we have benefited from each other.

Companion hunting dogs, like hounds, have an uncanny sense of smell and a deep desire for pursuit. Not only do hounds aid in the hunt for game, they also are invaluable for their abilities in searching for victims of accidents or natural disasters.

Nothing makes a hunting dog happier than following its instincts, and the excitement created by dogs as they prepare for an outing is highly obvious.

Retrievers are quick to learn, and, with a love of the water, it's almost impossible to keep these dogs from doing what they do best. With their wiggling faucets, they'll "play" fetch for hours on end and work through water given any opportunity.

Spaniels are flushing and pointing dogs. Intelligent and obedient, dogs like the Springer will work with head signals and commands to flush birds or small game from meadows or forests.

Many dog lovers do not hunt, but they can see these wonderful attributes in their own pets and, for more information on the wonderful breeds of hunting dogs visit www.huntingdog.org.



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Overture

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Edited by Anthony When-Smith
with Shande Denzil

Over and Under Achievers

Faster, higher, nuder

In its inaugural edition, special the I'N's inaugural meeting! Olympics... what's the point? Aren't they in the future? Bush's vision or the future?

◆ **George W. Bush:** In recent slip of tongue, he says United States should be a "pacermaker"—when his presidency means "pacermaker." Or maybe he was thinking aloud about what his campaign really needs.

◆ **Procter's beer:** Rips off the premise of *Millions* / *en* Canadian ads look tacky and best buried—substituting largesse for beer, and / *glad*!

Overbites

"I don't like to cross the Procter Jacques Carter and see the situation I went through when I was 18 years old of [seeing signs reading] *poor/badge, no/taunt* and everything bilingual Quebec is not bilingual."

—Quebec deputy premier Bernard Landry accuses Ottawa of trying to "integrate" Quebec by mixing bilingualism a requirement for infrastructure programs that would be financed by both levels of government.



Sara Brown, Jelena Jovanovic, Michelle Thériault, Alexandra Fournier and Rocky Scott, swimmer athletes show some skin in a fund-raising endeavor called *Nudele Nudis*

for 'hey' as de-fuelled pitch to Aussie pride. Maybe if you drink less beer, maybe, you'll get more original ideas.

◆ **The PM:** When Nassar Andar and Elhad Bank will then meeting with Bill Clinton. Only problem is such meeting was planned. Maybe he should

about it first that a majority handles gay he says he used to talk to

◆ **Nude Olympics:** As late as ongoing trend, our wayward cross-country ski team have all for fund-raising endeavor. Please let a ramp before it exceeds to nurse wounds.

Olympic-size math

If all the equipment for the Sydney Olympics Games ends up exactly where it should, organizers—and the address—can thank Victoria, B.C.-based Viewpoint Technologies Ltd. for saving them from a logistical nightmare.

Accountant software programs designed by Viewpoint, which has been used by 75 Olympics staff members in Sydney since last September, helps manage the furnishing of 12,000 rooms in 300 buildings. It also keeps track of all the physical goods—event equipment like javelin and high jump bars, medical supplies and computers—and makes sure materials get to the right venue at the right time.

The software, called view-LOGIS-

TICS, tracks the movement of everything from office chairs to massage tables. The Sydney Organising Committee licensed the program after two staff members witnessed it at action at the 1999 Pan-Am Games in Winnipeg. "They were way behind, and had been trying for a while to set up a similar program," says Rob McMillan, 28, Viewpoint's vice-president of information technology. "Once they saw our system, they abandoned their plan and signed with us."

The system will remain in operation until December to facilitate the return of equipment. All that's left for the contractor is to keep tabs on the 15,000 athletes even Viewpoint could help with that.

John Irlin

Let the guessing games begin

Shuffle speculation is often pointless, but always fun

When it comes to speculation about cabinet shuffles, getting it right isn't the point. Nobody can reliably guess what Jean Chrétien has in mind. Last cabinet shuffle, for instance, Chrétien shocked the opposition by depositing the unknown backbencher *Maria Mena* into the unimpressive co-operation portfolio. Still, the rumour mill grinding away in advance of the shuffle encompassed for this month or next serves a purpose. Behind every whirled prediction (circulating in Ottawa is a clue to when insiders think Chrétien must shake up his government in preparation for an election next year).

Here's how the thinking goes: the Liberals are weak on the fringes, so insiders suggest that Alberta heavyweight Anne McLellan will be freed from her economic as justice minister—where she is vulnerable to low-and-order smelter from the Canadian Alliance—to find relief in industry. Conventional wisdom says Chrétien needs higher-profile francophones to buff up his tarnished image in Quebec, so Revenue Minister Martin Cauchon is wanted for a big pensioner tax Janer. The plan possible up for grabs



McLellan looking for relief

in Foreign Affairs, which Lloyd Axworthy will vacate. Industry Minister John Manley, a cabinet anchor, is a lead contender. But there are evils. Trade Minister Pierre Pettigrew's advisors have taken to reminding anyone who will listen that their miss speaks not just French-Canadian English but a mix of Spanish, Italian and German. And Transport Minister David Colquhoun is thought to be in the running, if only because of his continuing loyalty to Chrétien. Or Chrétien could spring a complete surprise—and give to a glimpse of a strategic consideration everyone has overlooked.

Green, blue and read

Forget about organic or genetically modified meats and go straight for fun grub. This year, at least to play with your food. Some examples:

Green lettuce: Hasn't new condiment is for more than just fun. The green-out colour and appetizing beetle grasshoppers eat thing—food fight!

Blue Grouse: Take it from cooler: Affricade Rodeo G'Donnell's, this summer Once leaves a cool blue trail in your milk and on your tongue.

Alphabet peanuts: To snack or to spell? That's the eternal party food question.

Shande Denzil



Timothy Hines, 16, drinking a beverage with green lettuce

But we deserve it

It's not quite David Letterman, but part of China's upcoming push for Beijing to host the 2008 Summer Olympics includes a Top 10 list of reasons why the city would be well-suited to do so. Here's an abbreviated version of the list, as shown on the official Chinese Olympic Web site versus Beijing-olympic.org.cn. Note to representatives of Toronto's competing bid: the list has a pull allowing visitors to declare whether they support or oppose the bid. So vote early—and often.

◆ As the world's most populous nation, China has one-fifth of the world's population, including 400 million young people. However, China has never had the chance to host the Games.

◆ Gross domestic product (GDP) of the city is \$36 billion every year. The GDP per capita exceeds \$3,000.

◆ China ranks fourth in the number of medals won at the last three Olympic Games.

◆ Beijing is one of the cities with the lowest crime and traffic death rates. It has strong capabilities to guarantee safety and security.

◆ Beijing city was established 3,045 years ago.

◆ Beijing has experience in holding major sports competitions (including the 11th Asian Games, the 6th Far East and South Pacific Games for the Disabled and other international events).

◆ Beijing will build a 1,215 hectare Olympic park in the northern part of the city. The park will include an 80,000-seat stadium, 15 gymnasiums, an athletic village and an innovative exhibition centre (and will be surrounded by 760 hectares of land).

◆ Beijing has 344 star hotels that can accommodate 400,000 people. The Beijing airport has 35 million passengers passing through every year.

◆ Premier Zhu Rongji says the Chinese Government will do its best to support Beijing's bid.

◆ According to a recent poll, 94.6% of Beijing citizens support the bid.



Politics in the post-TV age

So, spend any time lately wondering what politicians really think of the reporters who follow them around? In at least one case, we now know. When George W. Bush spent *NBC's* *News* reporter Adam Clymer at a campaign event last week, he leaned over to running mate Dick Cheney and—*not* muttering an open-mouthed nod nearby—whispered that Clymer is “a major-league s—t” (before actually, of course, filling in those blanks). Told later that he had been overheard, Bush said he regretted that—but, pointedly, didn’t apologize to Clymer, who he feels has been biased against him.

The interesting thing about that min-fiss was that even some journalism therapists: Bush did himself no harm. Roger Simon of *U.S. News & World Report* suggested that calling a reporter a foul word “could swing key votes in America, and might gain some.” Others said the incident heightened Bush to voters, who otherwise only hear him as carefully prepared sound bites. Some members of the Washington press corps who knew Clymer thought Bush described him pretty well.

The real wonder isn’t that Bush harbors such sentiments, or that he got caught expressing them. Rather, it’s that so many politicians submit so rarely to the penning that they regularly take from journalists. Start with Bush, who had to endure the media rearranging his private life so as to discover if he ever did coo when he was young. That kind of poking about by reporters is routine in American politics, which is one reason why a lot of qualified, interested people don’t enter public life. In Canada, we tend not to do that sort of thing—partly because most of our political leaders live such good lives. But there are plenty of observations among journalistic practices—some justifiable, some not. You could practically feel the heat across the nation at the night last week of reporters on death watch outside *Newsweek’s* house after the firely asked to be left alone. But how many of those intrepid people asked on reports from those same reporters to keep abreast of the situation?

Another issue that even those of us who work in print have long acknowledged is the huge influence of television—all the more so in these days of all-news networks. It’s hard to even conceive how Franklin D. Roosevelt governed the United States for more than a decade while most voters weren’t even aware that because of a radio hour of politics, he couldn’t walk. (Given the different media ethos of the time, if Roosevelt had made a remark similar to Bush’s on an open mike, it’s likely no one would have reported it.) TV has made government less formal, more democratic and the candidates more familiar—and the early signs are that the Internet will accelerate that process. The American agitator Dick Morris, in a new book called *Survivor*, argues that the Web is

supplanting traditional media as the driving force in political life. Soon, he predicts, money will be less important in politics because the free Web will replace paid TV ads, and the ability to talk back to political figures via e-mail will encourage direct dialogue. That, he says, will accelerate traditional media panders, because they (all right, *we*) will become unwelcome reminders that this connection, perhaps—although this presupposes a level of interest among ordinary voters that doesn’t exist these days. Just because you can reach your congressman or MP more easily, does that automatically mean you want to? After all, one effect of spending exorbitant in recent years is that people don’t feel government answers their needs, since it has less influence on their lives.

In the meantime, we’re witnessing the disappearance of a fault line that has been increasingly apparent in politics in recent years. It’s the divide between politicians who have grown up with TV as part of their lives and are comfortable with it, and those older ones who didn’t, and that appear stiff and uneasy on camera. Because most people only ever see these political leaders up close via television, it’s the way they frame impressions of them. That’s bad news for politicians in their mid-50s or older, who, as a general rule, don’t have a good comfort level with the camera. Trudeau, who shone on TV, was the exception. People like Boon Mahoney, John Tuzar and Jean Chrétien, who all have had problems with the medium, are much more the rule. The PM is a formidable House of Commons performer—and in small gatherings, he projects quiet dignity. But TV seems to accentuate his age and ongoing struggle with the English language. Stockwell Day, on the other hand, is made for TV: telegraphic, blunt, and a compelling speaker. You saw the contrast a few weeks ago, when the PM launched a sharp attack on Day at a Liberal convention, and Day responded in a manner immediately after. People in the room with Chrétien thought he was terrific—but to those who caught it on the tube, he looked flustered and overweight.

With that in mind, Morris’ hoped-for world might bode well for politicians who aren’t camera-friendly. If the Web lessens the influence of TV, that will reduce the emphasis on appearances, because the Web does a better job of transmitting words than live images. Content becomes king. On the other hand, that’s a difficult concept to get used to for politicians accustomed to dodging tough questions on camera by simply smiling a lot and talking fast. What happens if thousands of voters start regularly sending their leaders pointed questions that are as unfriendly as some of the things journalists now ask of them? Perhaps politicians like Bush will discover they liked the old ways more than they realized.

We practice what they preach.

Isn’t it interesting that those companies extolling the benefits of being an e-business aren’t one themselves?

We are. In fact, not only did we pioneer being direct, we’ve become a model for how to do business on the Internet. Everything from being integrated with suppliers to e-commerce to customer support—creating efficiencies that result in business to business of its best. Online.

Shouldn’t the company that gives you the tools you need to be an e-business be an e-business?

No wonder companies like Monster.com, iBEEAM and NavSite partner with Dell. And use Dell PowerEdge® servers featuring Intel® Pentium® III Xeon® Processors to power their business.

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we direct your e-business to the right Dell server. Dell offers a complete line of Intel-based systems. Expand your e-business with robust Dell PowerEdge® servers based on the Intel Pentium® III Xeon® processor, including the PowerEdge E450 with up to eight processors and expandable to 32GB RAM.





Peter C. Newman

Giving Air Canada the finger

During last year's squabble about the future of Canada's airline industry, I began a column in this space with the proposition that if God had meant us to fly, He would never have invented Air Canada.

At the time, I was criticized by enraged readers for my hyperbolic outburst, but I since realized that my over-the-top observation understated the situation. Having gained distance from Canada's woes, the airline's attitude has piled into contempt for the flying public. And, hey, if you don't like it, go hostile! across the country. In other words, Air Canada is going to, for passengers, the finger.

Earlier this autumn, six brave passengers returned the compliment, with dire consequences.

The fiery cardiologist at Victoria's Royal Jubilee Hospital, John David Hilton, has earned wide acclaim for pioneering new gene and laser techniques for heart therapy. Flying last June to co-host an international conference in Montreal on new treatments, Hilton boarded an Air Canada Victoria to Toronto flight. The plane sat on the tarmac for an hour, then the pilot came on to say they were "waiting for clearance from Dallas," whatever that means, and the aircraft sat there for another 60 minutes before taking off. As a result, Hilton missed his connection to Montreal and was thus absent for the welcoming dinner he was to have in the city. The experience didn't finish him permanently because that was the standard of service he had come to expect from Air Canada.

The conference wound up on Friday, June 16, and Hilton cut short a presentation he was making on his revolutionary laser heart therapy to make the 1 p.m. flight back to Vancouver, and then on to Victoria by a connecting flight. Having rushed by reserved seat to Dorval airport, Hilton discovered that neither he nor any of his fellow passengers had their assigned seats, which had been mysteriously changed by a large group that had just arrived via El Al. He did finally get a seat, but when the Air Canada jet backed away from the gate an hour late, the captain announced that they would have to return because six exit seat blockers wouldn't come upright.

At this point, Hilton's anger level escalated, because the delay meant he would miss the last connecting flight to Victoria, where he was intended to be the only cardiologist on duty on Vancouver Island for the weekend, and he was already aware of some emergency patients who were due to be treated. Hilton decided to grab a portable computer from the storage locker above him, so that he could at least work on an academic paper he needed to complete.

As he stood up, he was spotted by an Air Canada flight attendant, who yelled at him to "sit down" over the public address system. "The plane wasn't moving," Hilton recalls.

"I go helicopter skiing in the Rockies and have asked solo to fly with me, so I'm not really worried about falling down. When the attendant shouted at me, I lost it and gave him the finger. It was not my greatest moment."

The flight attendant promptly ordered him off the flight and when Hilton demanded to see the pilot, a Capt. G. MacDonald appeared, who, without hesitating his side of the story, frankly told him to "get off my plane." At this point, Hilton had calmed down enough to realize that Air Canada might claim that he was drunk, had punched somebody or had otherwise been disruptive, and he asked for the police. Two officers arrived to escort him past conference delegates waiting to board other flights. (Looking back on the experience, Hilton realized that the pilot had broken a truly significant regulation: that passengers and their luggage must never be separated. His (alleged) suitcase, which could have had a bomb in it, was flying on its own.)

Hilton was now forced to get another ticket, but when the Air Canada agent checked his computer, he turned him away. "Unlike today's airport attitudes," he said. "We will not sell you an Air Canada ticket." The agent's supervisor confirmed the verdict, officially adding that Hilton "will not be sold a ticket now, or at any time on Air Canada."

Hilton did finally get to Vancouver that night after an airport with the medical doctor house that sponsored an transportation to the conference intervened on his behalf and persuaded the supervisor to issue another boarding pass. "Capt. MacDonald's decision to throw me off the plane may be his right in Canada as a pilot of a flying ship. However, I believe there was an abuse of power," Hilton complained in a June 20 letter to Air Canada CEO Robert Milton. "I don't believe that mistreating your middle finger is illegal in Canada, and such a premeditated act on some private airlines has used due justice quite successfully to express their displeasure in public. Canadians would be shocked to learn that anyone can be denied access to your flights with no hearing or adequate justification."

Hilton's letter concluded: "As a cardiologist in a publicly funded system, I am an old to take anyone who gestures themselves to our hospital. I cannot refuse to give any heart care to patients because I don't like them, or because they may be rude or difficult. All Canadians expect to get the best health care possible and truly this is the position that Air Canada now finds itself in, whether it really wanted it or not."

Eight weeks after Milton's office acknowledged receiving Dr. Hilton's letter, he has yet to be heard with a reply. Meanwhile, he hopes that more frustrated Canadians will give their national airline the finger. They should.

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The Trudeau Vigil

News of the former prime minister's illness reverberated from coast to coast

By Robert Sheppard

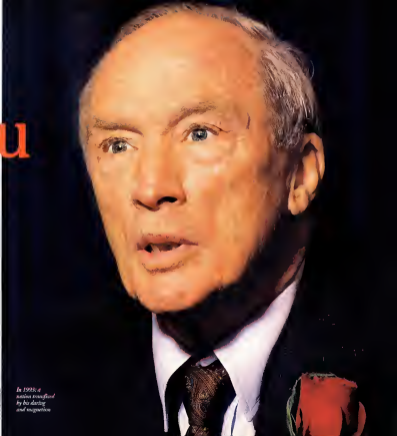
The news release was modest but cryptic. Their famous father was "not well" and requiring medical attention, said Jean and Sophie Trudeau in a brief statement last Thursday. "Would the media and public please respect their privacy?"

Surely not much chance of that. Within minutes, it seemed, word of Pierre Trudeau's illness was ricocheting across the nation. And like the man himself, the depth of his infirmity was shrouded in mystery. One Quebec radio host reported that Trudeau had been given the last rites by the Catholic church. Prime Minister Jean Chretien's top officials said they had been assured the former prime minister was not at death's door. Trudeau's caretaker emerged to say he had seen his boss eating lunch with one of his sons on Friday at the estate and that he appeared in good spirits. Still, the family had gathered, as wife Margaret and the two surviving sons were all at Trudeau's Montreal home, the boys pursuing their teaching and film careers temporarily on hold. And the watch unofficial.

By Thursday evening, scores of news organizations—and a growing

*In 1998, it
wasn't
surprised
by the
daring
and
suspense*

ALAN GORDON





At Michel's memorial service in 1998 with Soche (right), Mercer and Jansen, demagogued

He charmed by seduction, by the use of raw political power and by his almost casual eloquence in Canada's two official languages

throng of well-wishers—had risked out the front and back entrances to Trudeau's quirky Mount Royal house, an Art Deco cube shrouded into the side of the mountain. The camera flashes and crackling intensity lent the scene the air of an impending papal announcement. "Just watch me," a younger, rougher Trudeau had once said when imposing the War Measures Act against hostage-taking Quebec separatists. A nation transfixed by his daring and his almost feral magnetism had done just that—throughout the roller-coaster ride of his 15 years in power, afterwards too. Why should now, at the twilight of a remarkable life, be any different?

A Trudeau confidant told *Menzies* that the situation was, indeed, serious. The 80-year-old former prime minister has been suffering for at least two years from Parkinson's disease, a debilitating nervous disorder that can cause slowness, rigidity, tremors of the hands and legs and serious misdirection. But the most crushing blow came when his youngest son, Michel, was killed by an avalanche while doing in British Columbia's back country in November, 1993. Trudeau's former wife, Margaret, said he never truly recovered from that tragedy. And in January, he was hospitalized for 10 days—and placed on a respirator—for pneumonia, an illness much more serious than merely and friends let on at the time.

For Canadians who have not seen recent photos of a frail Pierre Trudeau (friends have often gone pains to keep him away from the cameras), the very idea is almost impossible to grasp. He was, after all, the epitome of vigor: the solitary

Hill in 1964; he has suffered for at least two years from the debilitating effects of Parkinson's disease



canoeist) the swifter with the over-proud zone in his lapel who fathered a child in his 70s, the political paragoner—thunder suggestively looked in his belt—who took on all comers, including a series of *raisonné* Quebec premiers. If anything else, Trudeau is forever captured as the winking cynic who snipped to his barking monks to back off the high-diving board or repeated campaign steps in 1968, reducing in turn a struggling Liberal party and an entire country soon after.

The late Marshall McLuhan, media guru and a Trudeau confidant, said the former prime minister was the ideal candidate for the downsizing age.



With René Lévesque in 1989, demagogued by some Canadians, respected and worshipped by others

of reflection politics—cool and cerebral with "the perfect mask" and "the face of a North American Indian." He was our Kennedy, more than one observer has noted over the years. And like the U.S. president, he charmed by seduction, by the use of raw political power and, because of his street-smart eloquence in both official languages, by seeming to set higher standards for a country that was smiling to emerge from 100 years of adolescence.

But it was not just that generation of left-leaning change baby boomers that Trudeau made his own. A poll last year by the Toronto-based Environics Research Group Ltd. found Trudeau was far and away the most popular of four former prime ministers: his nearly 75-per-cent approval rating was more than double what it was in 1983, during his last full year in office, and also more than double that of Conservative successor Brian Mulroney, to whom time has not been kindly in character. Trudeau had become a legend. Forged the hyperbole of the 1970s, the high unemployment

Marshall McLuhan said Trudeau was the ideal candidate for television politics

and growing deficits of the Trudeau years, the gross paranoia, the constant federal-provincial bickering and the lapin job-creation schemes. This was the man who, the way goes, single-handedly nursed around the 1980 Quebec referendum with one memorable speech at the Paul Saint-Arnaud in east-end Montreal in the very heart of this Québécois country; who acted down a phalanx of provincial barons to pursue the Constitution and create the Charter of Rights and Freedoms; and who made out of momentum in 1987 to galvanize opposition to Mulroney's Meech Lake accord and open a Pandora's box of unforeseen political consequences—Lucien Bouchard among them.

Decried by some, worshipped by others, "Trudeau was a different sort of person from the usual politicians that we had been accustomed to," observes Roger Landry, the former publisher of Montreal's *La Presse* newspaper and, briefly, Trudeau's Quebec press secretary during the 1972 election. "You have to recognize that he was a man of superior quality. He was highly intellectual, very cultured and he had very strong opinions. When he believed in something, that was what he believed in and there was no half measure."

And so we watched. He had been called an enigma, a bewitcher, even a "magus," in the words of journalist Richard Gwyn. He was the swinger whose prodigal government spending was so at odds with the ascetic, poetry-loving reformer; a natural performer, many of whose ostensibly spontaneous gestures—the famous promenade at Buckingham Palace, for example—may have been planned in advance. Above all else, Trudeau was the Quebecer trying to achieve one overriding objective: building French-speaking Canada as directly as possible to the larger country they had helped create.



Turning 65 on Oct. 18, 1975, well-known as Trudeau's Montreal residence (below), he was the quince of rapists

Quebec nationalists hated him for what they said was his penchant for "jazzing Quebec in its place." Many English-Canadians loved him, in part for endowing a bilingual nation and inspiring their sons and daughters to learn French. That, in the end, he might be too loved in the province and city he called home than in the rest of the country—and that separation were enacted in Quebec even as he swept 74 of 75 federal seats there in the 1980 election, and remained a vital political force—was among the many issues marking an audacious life.

But he was certainly respected by his political enemies and, judging by the some outside his Mount Royal home last week, countless other Canadians. As the watch grew, television and radio stations interrupted regular programming with updates on the former prime minister's condition. Digestives, even one luncheon, made their pilgrimage to the site to pay their respects, as did many ordinary Canadians, often bearing flowers. Roses of course. There were always roses.

With Brenda Burwell in Montreal



Pick up your copy today



Taking Advantage

By Brian Bergman in Calgary

Living in Alberta just keeps getting better and better.

—Premier Ralph Klein, announcing \$930 million worth of energy rebates

Ralph Klein may have made his national reputation as a deficit fighter, but he never really fit the role of Scrooge. As with most politicians, Klein likes to be liked and the harsh cuts he imposed as provincial spending in the 1990s did not always endear him to the average Albertan: the popular premier so frequently exclaims. Last week, Klein was in a more comfortable groove, doing up more than \$1 billion in taxpayer rebates and new spending—most of it flowing from the record \$5.6-billion budget surplus the province is projecting for the current fiscal year. So how does it feel to be an Alberta premier these days? "It feels absolutely wonderful," says Klein. "I mean, a fuckin' good."

Small wonder: Alberta's economy is, as the premier boasts, "firing on all cylinders." The Ottawa-based Conference Board of Canada predicts the province's economy will grow by 5.8 per cent this year, tops in the country. For the first six months of 2000, Alberta government statistics show a nine-per-cent increase in provincial housing starts and an almost 10-per-cent increase in retail sales over the same period last year. Unemployment stands at 5.2 per cent, below the national average of 7.1 per cent. There's one thing also becoming increasingly diversified: the energy sector, which in 1993 accounted for

With its soaring economy, oil-rich Alberta is the envy of all of Canada



Klein savouring his rebates. Scrooge no more

Conservative governments now expects to reap second round revenues of \$4.5 billion this fiscal year. That, in turn, is opening up a wealth of options. Already the government has committed to nearly \$1 billion in new spending since its spring budget, mostly in the area of health care and education. With the deficit long ago eliminated, \$4.5 billion of this year's surplus is being applied to the province's \$12.5 billion debt, and Klein is now predicting that the remaining debt could be paid off in as little as two years.

The next priority is tax cuts, with some senior Tories, including Provincial Treasurer Steve West, publicly musing about a day, in the foreseeable future, when Albertans will not pay any personal provincial income tax at all.

In vintage fashion, Klein, a former television sportsman, is rolling out the good news in manageable second bites. Five days after his treasury announced the new surplus figures, Klein last week printed Albertans for endorsing the government's earlier austerity program. "We told Albertans that the short-term pain would lead to long-term gain," said the premier, "and that's turned out to be true." The next day Klein held a news conference to unveil two dozen rebates. The first will see all car-owning Albertans aged 16 and over receive \$300 to help offset rising home heating and gasoline bills. The second gives all residential electricity customers a \$20-per-month credit on their power bills for one year beginning in January. The week ended with the Klein government dispensing \$200 million in infrastructure funding to colleges and universities.

The flurry of announcements left opposition critics seething at a decision in the air. Among the chief: the \$300 fuel rebate is to be rolled in two equal installments, the first in November and the second in April, 2001—about the time that Klein is widely expected to drop the word "This is not a tax refund."

declines Liberal treasury critic Howard Sapon, "this is score-buying." Sapon predicts Albertans will not take the bait. "With university tuition fees growing at the fastest rate of any province," he says, "with public school classroom overcrowding the highest and with many people still waiting in seriously long periods for certain diagnostic services, Albertans are wondering if they are getting full value for their surplus."

Others argue that "the Alberta advantage" Klein so often touts has a hollow ring to those unable to share in the spoils. Brian Bechtel, executive director of the Edmonton Social Planning Council, notes the government has not intervened in social services, which experienced budget cuts of up to 30 per cent. "The poor are getting poorer," says Bechtel, "and I think, with \$5-billion surpluses, we can afford to slow this trend."

University of Calgary political scientist David Tait says another potential peril of prosperity is what some are already referring to as "the merry faccise." As Alberta projects its surpluses against high energy costs in a way that other provinces cannot afford, resentment may build in the rest of the country. "It's the old blue-eyed sheila phenomenon of the 1970s," says Tait. It is also what helped prompt the 1980 National Energy Program, an attempt by Pierre Trudeau's government to redistribute resource wealth towards Ottawa by

heavily taxing and regulating the oil industry. "If there's someone there's a prosperous province that is not sharing, then all eyes could turn to Ottawa for some sort of action," says Tait. "And that could start the Ottawa-Education war all over again."

The possibility of another federal energy grab is not taken lightly in the Alberta capital. "Don't start that nonsense in this country," admonished West after announcing the latest surplus projections. "I don't want our children or grandchildren to ever have to go through that." In a similar vein, Klein responded early last week when a reporter asked if a search "hang" to suggest that other provinces should follow Alberta's lead in tackling the debt. "No, it's not smart," he said. "Those people who might be curious today should listen back to 1993-1994 and the tough decisions we made."

Some independent analysts say the premier has a point: Peter Hall, associate director of economic forecasting for the conference board, says it is true not all provinces are blessed with Alberta's resource wealth. "But that being said," says Hall, "much care has been taken to put Alberta's fiscal situation in order. In a global economy, that's very attractive to investors." With investment, adds Hall, should come continued economic growth—and, for Klein, the prospect of rolling out the good news for years to come.

HOW THE WEALTH FLOWS



Source: Alberta Energy Services Corp.

Oil refinery near Edmonton, providing a wealth of options





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A call for freer trade

Former prime minister Brian Mulroney, who reached a free trade agreement with the United States in 1989 and broadened it to include Mexico in 1994, called for an expanded deal to encompass all of the Western Hemisphere. "If that happens, Canada and the U.S. will be at the centre of the richest and most dynamic free trade zone in the world," he said in Montreal at the launch of an academic anthology on the subject. He also called for a Canada-U.S. customs union.

The Mounties get cracking

RCMP in Vancouver and Toronto seized heroin worth an estimated \$2.96 million in two of the year's biggest busts. The Vancouver seizure was larger—99 kg—but the Toronto cache of 57 kg had been more cunningly concealed. The drugs were in a shipment of powdered duck eggs, a delicacy shipped regularly from Asia. Police had to crack 17,000 real duck eggs to find the 1,700 drug-filled plastic replicas. Four Canadian citizens and three Hong Kong residents were arrested.

Tories take a thrashing

Ontario Premier Mike Harris' Tories lost a by-election battle in the traditionally Conservative riding of Ancaster/Dundas/Framingham/Algicshot to the provincial Liberals. Harris, whose party embroiled in a bitter dispute with the provincial teachers, said the thrashing was not a referendum on his government's policies. News last week that Ontario may be heading towards a \$3.5-billion surplus this year may help to shore up the government.

More Walkerton woes

People in the beleaguered town of Walkerton, Ont., where six people died after a deadly E. coli outbreak in May, were warned to learn that contaminants have again been found in the town's water supply. But at week's end, officials announced that the new E. coli bacteria were not the same strain and do not cause sickness in humans. The southwestern Ontario farming community has spent the entire summer without clean tap water, relying heavily on bottled water and water shipped in by rail trucks.



Tiger mania hits Glen Abbey golf course

Wherever he goes, Tiger Woods creates a sensation, and the Bell Canadian Open, held near Toronto, Ont., was no exception. All 35,000 tickets for each day sold out, a tournament first. It was a chance to see the 24-year-old golf star before he takes a break. "All summer long, I've gone at it pretty good," he said, "and I just want to get in one more before I shut it down for a while."

More troubles for the Conservatives

Joe Clark's federal Tories lost another one. Last week, the party's sole Ontario MP, Jim Jones, announced he was switching to Stockwell Day's Canadian Alliance. Jones said he was making the move with the approval of his constituents, with whom he had consulted during the summer. Clark, who has lost a steady stream of party members to Day's party and who ejected Jones from the Tory caucus in July for flirting with the Alliance, said he wasn't surprised by the move. And Day claimed Jones's defection was a

"wake-up call" for the federal Liberals. "It gives us the elected foothold in Ontario we've been seeking," he said.

Day also blamed Jean Chrétien for the Prime Minister's recent blistering attack on the Alliance (among other things, Chrétien called the Alliance leader "Blowell Day" after Day recruited two former Bloc Québécois members). But it wasn't all smooth sailing for the Alliance. Earlier in the week, Day had roused shock by reducing the seven-per-cent federal Goods and Services Tax. He subsequently backed away from that notion after other members of his party and the Alliance's opponents should be an income- and business-tax cut.

Michel Cogger steps down

Tory Senator Michel Cogger, convicted in 1998 of influence peddling, resigned from the red chamber. Cogger, 61, named to the Senate in 1986 by his friend Brian Mulroney, is appealing his conviction (he was fined \$3,000, put on 12 months' probation and ordered to perform 120 hours of community service for lobbying the government on behalf of a private client). Another Tory senator with legal problems, former Saskatchewan deputy premier Eric Berntson, is still in the Senate. He is appealing his February, 1999, conviction for fraud.



Photography

A Majestic Land

By Lorraine Monk

Canada, a physical giant of a country, bordering on three oceans, blessed with some of the most spectacular geography on the planet, has presented an awesome challenge to those who would capture its image and its essence.

Every Canadian has a unique and private view. Each one of us looks at our country from a very personal perspective.

The search for a national identity is a journey without an end. It began a long, long time ago. It will continue into the far distant future. The important thing is that we look at ourselves and around ourselves.

From the beginning of the communications revolution, which dawned with the invention of film in the middle of the 19th century, photographers in Canada were imbued with the daredevil spirit of adventure. They chronicled our war-torn terrain on voyages of exploration and discovery. They

ventured into uncharted territory, often on perilous journeys, to capture the multitude of pictures that show us what our country looks like.

In so many different ways, our photographers have pictured Canada for us. They have created many of our most vivid visual scenes. The pictures they have taken show us, in astonishing detail, what a majestic land we live in. They show us how vast and varied our landscape is.

Photographers have captured the spirit of our people in all our diversity. They consistently remind us of the ever-changing face of Canada and Canadians. Above all else, their photography is an extraordinary celebration of our country.

Lorraine Monk also founded the first gallery exclusively for Canadian photography in the nation of Canada. These Things We Hold Dear, a new book published by Lorraine Monk Productions Inc. of Toronto, from which these photos have been selected.



Regina Plains, Sask. (above), and Conception Bay, Nfld. (right), both by George Hunter, Macmillan Park, B.C. (top right), by Sherman Hines; the country is a visual paradise for professional and amateur photographers.





Photography

The richness, variety and splendour of Canada has been captured by the camera for more than a century



Off Byler Island, Nunavut (left), by Michael Beaudell; Rocky Mountains, Alta. (top), by Patrick Morris: the geography inspires a professional challenge and a personal risk for photographers

St. John River Valley, Pict. N.B. (right), by Willem DeKey; Lake Superior, Ont. (below), by Klen M. Long: photographs immerse the nation's environment and identity



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Canada and the World

Beyond the UN

At a special world summit, only Canada proposes how to head off peacekeeping's looming crisis of credibility

By Andrew Phillips in New York City

There is room for skepticism—even cynicism—when a large group of world leaders get together to discuss each other with their rhetoric. Even more so when the group is the biggest ever assembled. 189 kings, princes, presidents, prime ministers, dictators and demagogues gathered last week in New York City for a Millennium Summit convened by Kofi Annan, secretary general of the United Nations. At the outset, the question was whether all those politicians could restrain themselves to the short five minutes allotted for their speeches. As it turned out, they didn't do too badly: an average of just seven minutes each, even allowing for the presence of Cuba's long-winded president, Fidel Castro.

Such an assembly might be expected to be an extended session of self-congratulation—but the United Nations' many problems and Annan's determination to tackle them ensured a different outcome. Humbled by the failure of peacekeeping missions around the world and shocked by the murder of three UN workers in West Timor on the eve of the summit, the leaders agreed to create a stronger, better-financed force to intervene in situations that threaten world peace. More controversially, they breached the delicate issue of when the world has a right to step in and stop governments from killing their own people—even if that means violating the once-sacrosanct principle of national sovereignty. Annan has been proposing such a vision for a year, so vigorously that observers have begun calling it the "Annan doctrine." Again,



Clinton before the Security Council (opposite), Clinton
Jim Zornes (left), Russian Vladimir Putin; Clinton's Tony Blair, Clinton and Clinton (right): 189 leaders

last week, he called on UN members to agree that governments that abuse their own people should not be able to hide behind their borders. Otherwise, Annan told the Security Council, the United Nations faces "a crisis of credibility."

That is the crucial question the United Nations faces—and one that Canada hopes to help solve. Prime Minister Jean Chrétien joined the chorus of leaders insisting that the world must not stand by while civilians are massacred—as happened in such places as Bosnia, Rwanda and Sierra Leone. "We have seen in our lifetime in recent years," he said, "the security of a given state, in the name of ethnic nationalism, has been used as a justification for the worst kind of atrocities." Other leaders echoed those sentiments, but only Canada offered a modest initiative towards resolving the dilemma.

It came in the form of an independent commission that Canada will establish to figure out just when world bodies like the United Nations should intervene to protect civilians. So far, there has been no agreement and the United Nations has found itself paralyzed in Serbia, massacred Albanians in Kosovo and raging armies backed off children's lives in Sierra Leone. The panel Chrétien announced last week will bring together world experts to lay down principles of how and when the world should step in. Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy is to announce details in New York this week. But as described by Canadian officials, the commission will be administered by a small secretariat based in New York and headed by Jill Sinclair. She is the Foreign Affairs official who was in charge of another past Axworthy project—Ottawa's successful drive for an international treaty banning land mines.

It will, too, diplomats insist, be a UN operation. Two permanent members of the Security Council—Russia and China—bitterly oppose anything that calls into question the principle of national sovereignty. As a result, and one official, "There's going to be a huge reaction against that. It's not something the UN can do."

The panel, to be called the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty, will be co-chaired by a

former Australian foreign minister, Gareth Evans, and a former UN official, Mohamed Sahnoun of Algeria. It will include eight other commissioners—among them an influential former U.S. congressman, Lee Hamilton, and a one-time head of the International Commission of the Red Cross, Corrado Sommaruga of Switzerland—and will be financed in part by the Rockefeller, Ford and Carnegie Foundations. Axworthy, diplomatic sources said, hopes that other countries will lead political support to the project and create a growing consensus for intervention to halt humanitarian disasters. They draw a parallel with the anti-land-mines pact run out of Ottawa that snowballed into an international movement. "This is beyond peacekeeping," says one official. "This is for when there's no peace to keep."

The United Nations, though, still has major problems with conventional peacekeeping—in many ways its signature asset. It is running 14 operations involving some 60,000 soldiers, police and civilians at a cost of about \$3.5 billion a year. But, as a UN report acknowledged in August, many operations are underfunded and staffed by poorly equipped and badly trained Third World soldiers. The problems plaguing peacekeeping operations were brought home in brutal fashion last week when three civilian UN aid workers were murdered in West Timor. They were in a refugee office when a mobbed by armed Indonesians attacked them. Just before he died, one of them, Carlos Cárdenas-Calleja of Puerto Rico, sent an e-mail to fellow UN worker that read in part: "We are here like bats, ignored."

Change may be on the way. Despite the misgivings of China and Russia, the Security Council voted to strengthen peacekeeping operations. It approved better training and equipment for peacekeepers, better funding for their missions, and an overhaul of the units that oversee peacekeeping at UN headquarters. The United Nations' No. 2 official, Louise Fréchette of Canada, is to oversee implementation of the reforms. "We need well-defined missions with clear scope, enough money and political support," said one peacekeeping official. "This place has been run on a shoestring." The Millennium Summit may fall short of other grand objectives it set for the world body. But it may be judged a success if it achieves those more modest goals. ■



Annan: a doctrine of intervention

A Tragic Puzzle

Three British judges must set a life-and-death precedent

By Barry Camo in London

The two infants are known only as Jodie and Mary, names the British court invented to protect their privacy. They are tiny twins, born on Aug. 8 at St. Mary's Hospital in Manchester. But despite their brief lives, the little sisters have managed to generate enormous controversy, enough to prompt two of the three Appeal Court justices hearing their case to confess to sleepless nights pondering how to resolve a tragic puzzle without precedent in English law. "Save Jodie but murder Mary," said one of those judges, Lord Justice Ward, in an address last week to a battery of barristers involved in the affair. "I put it subtly, but that may be what you are inviting the court to do."

Jodie and Mary's problem is that they are joined at the lower abdomen. Mary has no effective heart, no functioning lungs and a brain her doctors describe as "very, very primitive." The infant is alive only because she is attached to her sister, Jodie, whose the doctors term "bright and alert," supplies Mary with oxygenated blood from her own heart and lungs. Surgically separated from her sister, Jodie stands, according to the Manchester medical team, a 95-per-cent chance of living a normal life. The operation would, however, kill Mary. Without it, doctors say, both girls are likely to die within six months as a result of the strain on Jodie's heart.

Ever since the two girls were born, the doctors at St. Mary's have been urging the girls' parents to agree to the separation. But the parents, identified in court only as devout Roman Catholics from a remote community in southern Europe, have resisted, largely on religious grounds. On Aug. 25, the medical team won a decision in England's High Court allowing the separation

The parents, in an effort to overturn the ruling, took their case to the Court of Appeal. Neither were in court last week when those proceedings opened. But the parents, through their lawyer, submitted a written statement. "Life cannot," it said, "begin to accept or contemplate that one of our children should die to enable the other one to

DIRE CONSEQUENCES

Separation will result in one death—but both may die without the surgery



survive. That is not God's will. We believe nature should take its course. Everyone has a right to life, so why should we kill one of our daughters to enable the other one to survive?"

For the three Appeal Court justices, the case raises a host of complex legal, religious and ethical issues. Lord Justice Brooke, sitting with Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Walker, told a hushed courtroom last week that he had been searching for legal precedents, without much success, until the early hours of each morning. "What is this creature in the eyes of the law?" he asked in reference to Mary, whom he noted "had no ca-

pacity to produce oxygenated blood."

Lord Justice Ward, admitting that he, too, had been kept awake grappling with the issue, noted that there were "astonishingly difficult" questions of criminal law involved. "The moment the knife goes into that united body, it touches the body of unhappy little Mary. It is in this second an assault. You fiddle about, rearrange the plumbing. An hour later you put a clamp on the aorta. You cannot pretend that is not actively engaged in assaulting her integrity. For what justification? None of them."

The court assigned lawyer Judith Parker to represent Jodie's interests.

"We must look at it not that something is being done to Mary to hasten the end of her life," she argued in response, "but that something is being done to Jodie in order to release to her her own integrity and bodily autonomy." Parker raised the possibility that, in law, Mary is an effect assaulting Jodie's body by using her heart and lungs. Jodie, in turn, has the right, through her legal guardians, to withdraw her consent to provide blood and life support for her sister.

The court even granted the doctors involved in the case anonymity after lawyers for St. Mary's reported receiving hate mail. One of the medical team, identified only as Dr. B, testified that if the girls stayed together and even somehow managed to survive, those prospects were bleak. "There is little chance," he said, "of either of them being able to sit up or walk. One is very likely to have to drag the other around, whether consensually or otherwise."

After three days of testimony last week, the Appeal Court justices adjourned the case until this week. In the meantime, Jodie and Mary remain in stable condition at St. Mary's. In contrast to her state immediately after birth, Mary is beginning to be more active. Her doctors report that she now opens her right eye occasionally and has begun to suck, even though she cannot feed. Jodie is active, alert and laughing, just like any normal month-old baby. ■

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A bodyguard's new job

Timor Ren-Jorn, the only survivor of the car crash that killed Diana, Princess of Wales, in 1997, has taken a one-year peacekeeping post with the United Nations in East Timor. The 32-year-old former paparazzo, who worked as a bodyguard for the Royal family, still has no memory of the horrific event that also killed Doth Al Fayed and driver Henri Paul.

Church versus church

Religious communities around the globe reeled with hostility at a Vatican document stating that Catholicism is the only true Christian faith and that non-Christians were in a "grossly deficient situation." The report threw into question the considerable gains Pope John Paul II has made in inter-religious dialogue during his 22-year papacy.

Fueling a protest

France's trading unions launched a six-day protest against high taxes on diesel fuel, blockading railways and fuel depots across the country. The protest, which led to panic buying, fuel rationing and dry jumps across France, ended when the government responded with significant tax cuts, reported to be as high as 50 per cent.

Hostages set free

Four European hostages were released after being held by Muslim rebels for more than four months in a Philippine jungle. The Abu Sayyaf, who say they are fighting for an Islamic state, had ransomed the four tourists from a Malaysian diving resort in April. Seven other hostages are still being held by a separate faction of the same group.

Ozone hole still growing

NASA detected the largest ever ozone hole over Antarctica. The hole, which reached 28.5 million square kilometers on Sept. 3, is three times bigger than the entire landmass of the United States. Scientists believe early spring conditions and the persistence of ozone-depleting gases in the stratosphere caused the enormous hole. NASA has been monitoring Antarctic ozone levels since the early 1970s. The first ozone hole was discovered in 1985.

Putin hits the mats

Russian President Vladimir Putin, who has a black belt in judo, was floored after a 30-year-old Japanese green belt, Naomasa Gomi, threw him at Tokyo's Nishioka Judo Hall. Putin, who was on a three-day visit to Japan, met Prime Minister Yoshiko Mori to try to resolve a territorial dispute over four islands off northern Japan that Russia seized in 1945. The talks did not settle the issue.



Gore gaining

For the first time in months during the U.S. presidential race, Democrat Al Gore has pulled ahead of Texas governor and Republican candidate George W. Bush. Gore, who for months trailed in the polls, was leading by as much as 10 percentage points—by support from women.

During the same period, Gore declared himself the candidate of the technology and partied Bush and Cheney as he holds to his old and drug companies. Gore also released a 150-page economic and social plan that would give Americans almost three times more money for education and Medicare than Bush's budget proposal. With only two months to go, it might be the tightest presidential contest since Democrat Bill Clinton beat Republican George Bush in 1992.

His naming issue, Dick Cheney—he described a journalist in vulgar terms. But Bush was close to a sensitive microphone, and his words were broadcast around the world.

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More rough roads ahead for Firestone

The U.S. justice department is reviewing whether any criminal or civil laws apply to the case of defective Firestone tires. Attorney General Janet Reno made the announcement after Congressional hearings failed to determine who at Bridgestone/Firestone Inc. or at Ford Motor Co. knew about the tire failures—killed as 88 deaths and at least 250 injuries in the United States—and when they knew Firestone recalled 6.5 million tires after U.S. authorities began investigating accidents where cars suddenly lost their road or suffered blowouts.

Web Getaways

As Internet bookings rise, travel agents are fighting back

By Katherine Mackinnon

Last month, Eric Tan sold his driving seat from travel agency in Vancouver's upscale Kerrisdale neighborhood to set up shop on the second floor of a quiet residential building, away from walk-in traffic. It's not that Tan, who specializes in Alaska cruises, wants people to stay away—from the car, he needs drop-in business. But now, instead of customers coming through the front door, Tan is courting on their coming in over the Internet.

Tan launched his Web site (www.canadabooks.com) in September, 1996. He made his first sale from the Net the following January. "By the end of 1997, I noticed it was a very important part of the overall business," he says. By mid-2000,

in fact, leads generated from the Web had grown to the point that they equalled the business of Tan's Kerrisdale storefront. Believing he could not divide his attention and end in both areas, Tan decided to concentrate on the freer half of the business: "I had to focus on one or the other. I thought the Internet offered bigger potential."

Tan's bet is backed up by analysts who predict exponential growth in the online travel business. As Canadians turn to planning winter holidays in the Caribbean and other warm spots, many will use the Web to research trips, book tickets, reserve hotel rooms or buy package vacation deals. And although e-business for travelers is still in its infancy, most travel is sold over the Internet than any other consumer product, according to Cambridge, Mass.-based Forrester Research

Inc. "We are expecting that in 2000, \$662 million will be spent for travel on the Web by Canadians," says Henry Harnowski, a senior analyst with Forrester. "It could go as high as \$1.2 billion by 2004."

Ben Hickey is one consumer sold on the idea of buying airplane tickets on the Net. "It kind of saves the hassle," says the 23-year-old Montreal marketing assistant. Hickey booked his first online ticket about a year ago. While "just surfing around" to check the best price for a trip to Europe, he found a \$750 return flight from Halifax via Reykjavik to London on KLM. Hickey says that with the technology available at his fingertips, the early days as a travel agent and a unlikely in the future. "It doesn't seem as though the need for a travel agent is gone now," he says.

The Internet is also affecting where consumers purchase their tickets. Traditionally, travel agents have averaged approximately 80 per cent of Canadian travel plans. On the Web, consumers have a choice to use an online travel agent, such as Travelocity or Expedia, or to go directly to the supplier, such as Air Canada. The early numbers suggest about half of consumers go direct. At Air Canada, for instance, about four per cent of its tickets are bought through electronic channels, says

Marc Rosenberg, Air Canada's vice-president for sales. About two per cent are bought directly from the airline's site.

So where do all this love the traditional travel agent? They were already feeling beleaguered by dramatic cuts in commissions. Agents used to receive about 10 per cent of the price from the airlines on every ticket sold. Today, Air Canada, like most of its U.S. counterparts, pays 5 per cent, with a cap of \$60 on domestic flights and \$140 for international. The embattled agents' response has been to charge a service fee of between \$5 and \$40 for these clients. Now, customers with access to the Web—especially the wealthier, better educated consumers, who are more likely to travel—can bypass agents altogether.

It's an issue the Association of Canadian Travel Agents is tackling head-on. In a \$500,000 ad blitz to be launched this week, the association is telling Canadians "Connect with the world's most powerful travel search engine—your travel agent." The campaign urges that agents have the time and expertise to find deals not readily available to casual Web surfers. Randy Williams, ACTA's president and chief executive, is the man passing the case: "You could probably do your own income taxes," he says. "You could probably sell your house without a real-estate agent. You can on your laptop/PC too." Williams, who left a post with Tourism Saskatchewan to head up the travel agents' association 10 months ago, says he wanted to work on

the small side of the business while it was undergoing radical change. "I don't see it as me overseeing the end of the travel agency industry in Canada," he says.

Williams insists his members need not worry—even though he does not concur a common industry prediction that the agents' share of the business will drop to about 60 per cent. "That's obviously a little discouraging to travel agents," Williams admits. Still, he adds, tourism and travel is a booming segment of the economy. "There will still be a need for a customer and destination location in Seattle, Manitoba," says Williams. Travel agents need to specialize, either by focusing on a specific local clientele or by finding a niche, he says.

Paul Verhoef, chairman and chief executive of Tripica.com Inc., one of Canada's few independent travel Web sites, says



WHERE TO GO

Some key travel Web sites catering to Canadians

- www.aircanada.ca
- www.bonvoyage.com
- www.canada3000.ca
- www.cst.ca
- www.travelocity.ca
- www.travelpurchase.com
- www.tripica.com

his own experience convinced him of the future of the model e-business. In July, 1997, Verhoef left his post as co-owner of Uggahole travel franchises in Calgary and Vancouver and set off with his wife Gabi and their four children for a year-long tour of the world. They travelled through Europe, Africa, Southeast Asia and the South Pacific. In the mornings, the young Verhoef did schoolwork with their mother, while Paul planned the next phases of their trip. He used the Internet to do research, and to make bookings and reservations. "I just thought, 'Wow, what a tool. Everything is available to me whenever I want,'" Verhoef says. On his return in 1998, Verhoef established Tripica.com. He says

he expects fully half of all travel arrangements to be booked online in coming years.

For the time being, though, travellers are using the Internet mainly for research. As Forrester's study says, they are lookers, not bookers. Tan agrees. "The Internet hasn't matured to the point where people are willing to spend \$10,000 electronically," he says. "You dream things up and up in a phone conversation." But, as Canadians prepare for the annual migration to warmer climes, their growing comfort level with the Internet will lead to more Web-booked travel plans.

With Chris Wood in Vancouver and Brenda Barwood in Montreal

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Canada may probe Firestone
Tirapour: Canada is examining 24 accidents that may have been caused by faulty Firestone tires. Officials have received dozens of complaints about the recalled tires, which have been linked to 88 deaths and 1,400 accidents in the United States. None of the Canadian incidents involved a fatality.

Jobless rate creeps up

Despite a booming economy, the unemployment rate rose to 7.1 per cent in August from 6.8 per cent in July. Some economists saw a silver lining in the numbers, noting that the boom had encouraged thousands of people to actively look for work. StatsCan said 27,000 new jobs were created during the month, reversing a modest decline.

Noranda sweetens bid

Mining giant Noranda Inc. raised its hostile takeover bid for rival Rio Algom Ltd., offering more than \$1.7 billion. The bid is valued at \$27.50 a share, slightly higher than a competing offer from Brama's Billon PLC, which had struck a friendly merger deal with Rio Algom worth \$27 a share.

Brenfman bows out

Charles Bronfman, co-chairman of Seagram's, the world's third-largest producer of alcoholic beverages, has decided to step out of the bidding war to acquire the part of the company founded by his father 76 years ago, according to *The Wall Street Journal*. Vivendi SA of France is selling the liquor division as part of a \$40-billion takeover of Seagram.

Multimedia giant

The billionaire Thomson family and BCE Inc. are about to launch a multimedia powerhouse that will include *The Globe and Mail*, the Internet portal Sympatico and the CTV Network, Canada's largest commercial broadcaster. According to reports in the *Globe*, the new company is expected to be announced this week. The Thomson family would have to buy the newspaper from Thomson Corp. before adding it to the mix.

Business Notes

The battle in the skies



Ready in Halifax: a fight over prices

They may be small, but Air Canada is taking them very seriously. They are the discounters—WestJet Airlines Inc., Canada 3000 Airlines Inc. and Royal Aviation Inc.—which operate low-cost, no-frills scheduled flights over a limited number of domestic routes. Last week, Halifax-based IMP Group International Inc. launched Carjet Airlines Corp. with two aircraft and daily flights between Halifax, Ottawa, Toronto and Windsor, Ont. By the end of the month, Carjet plans to add another aircraft and three new destinations—Montreal, St. John's, Nfld., and Winnipeg. Price is Carjet's trump card. A one-way trip from Halifax to Montreal will cost \$89 and one-way Halifax to Winnipeg just \$249. "We are keeping it simple and straight-

forward and doing everything we can to reduce costs," says chief operating officer Mark Warden.

Air Canada responded immediately, slashing some fares on nine cities Canadian routes by as much as 80 per cent until Nov. 30. Carjet accused its giant rival of predatory pricing and filed a complaint with the federal Competition Bureau. But an Air Canada representative said the airline's policy is to offer competitive prices on all routes.

The Bay gets a profitable face-lift

Toronto-based Hudson's Bay Co. may be 330 years old, but it is going through a major face-lift that is already producing a more robust bottom line. As it prepares for competition from Sears-owned Eaton's stores due to reopen soon, the Bay is increasing floor staff by as much as 40 per cent. It also often cancelled checks at suburban stores and has revamped its approach to sales. Last week, company president George Heller announced a second-quarter profit of \$16.8 million, up 47 per cent from a year earlier, before Eaton's closed its doors.

Financial Outlook

Canada may be the best place to live in the world, but it is only No. 7 in

savings and investment. WEF uses the standings as a predictor of future growth. With its not-hot economy, the United States tops the list, nudging

Singapore into second place. Despite its own boom, Canada has fallen two places in the past year, and been overtaken by Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Ireland and Finland. Russia, ranked 55, is no longer in on the list, it has lost No. 59 to Ecuador.

TOP COMPETITORS

Country	Index
United States	5
Singapore	2
Luxembourg	3
Netherlands	4
Ireland	5
Finland	6
Canada	7
Hong Kong	8
Belgium	9
Switzerland	10

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Trying to stop a musical torrent

Why the ruling against MP3.com may not help much

Canadian guitarist Lorne Boyd is a fan of MP3.com. She makes her CDs available for sale—and for online burning—on the popular U.S. Web site. But Universal Music Group, owned by Montreal-based Seagram Co., doesn't like MP3.com at all, and last week it got a federal judge in Manhattan to agree to the tune of \$100 million or more.

An issue was an MP3.com service that let people register CDs they had already purchased, then listen to their music on any computer from digital copies stored on MP3.com's system. In the eyes of Universal, the world's biggest music company, those copies breached U.S. copyright law. Judge Jed Rakoff ordered MP3.com to pay \$37,000 for each Universal CD in its library. Lawyers for MP3.com warned that to secure a payout would be a "death sentence" for the San Diego-based company. Recording industry spokesmen claimed that it would deal a body blow to illegal music on the Web.

In fact, neither MP3.com nor the Bandcamp trade in unlicensed online music—often downloaded to portable players for easy access—are in danger of fading away any time soon. MP3.com promptly appealed Rakoff's verdict—postponing its effect for months, perhaps years, of legal wrangling. Meanwhile, subscribers new software promises to render Universal's victory a hollow one: several other recent verdicts upholding entertainment giants against smaller rivals. Still, when it comes to tracking digital music and movies, Rakoff's ruling



MP3 players fit in on the cyber-band

may help draw the line in the cyber-sand between what's legal commerce and what is rampant piracy.

MP3.com had already effectively conceded the merit of Universal's case. In out-of-court settlements earlier this year, the company agreed to pay four other music labels an estimated \$39 million apiece to settle similar claims. According to analysts, Universal's lawyers convinced senior executives to hold out for a richer court-ordered judgment. In the event, Universal was awarded less than the \$66,600 per CD it sought, but far more than the \$749 MP3.com claimed, as well as deleted, was the most it could afford. Rakoff's court decisions in November to determine how many CDs the penalty will cover. Un-

iversal maintains MP3.com has copied as many as 10,000 titles. The lawsuit says the number is below 5,000.

Whatever the final amount, the penalty shows the chilly climate facing a-conscious trailblazers who run too far ahead of the law. In July, Napster, the hugely popular software for sharing music files in the MP3 audio format, barely escaped its own death sentence. A San Francisco judge ordered the Redwood City, Calif., company to shutter its Web site after the Recording Industry Association of America sued it for copyright violations. Napster won a stay of execution pending an appeal. But San Francisco-based Sonix.com, whose software lets users swap movies as well as music, was on the brink of folding last week due to an industry lawsuit. "We've earned a page," declared Brian Robertson, president of the Canadian Recording Industry Association. "The gallstone is coming down on the whole system for furthering the theft of sound recordings."

Even so, the corporate blade is unlikely to stem the torrent of unlicensed music and movies that individuals are swapping online. In Napster's wake have come dozens of imitators. Some programs, like Gnutella, give industry lawyers little to target. Instead of relying on dedicated server computers, as Napster does, so-called "distributed" engines allow direct communications between individual user's machines. "There is no company to sue," boasts a Gnutella fan site. "It is virtually unstopable."

Gary Bourgeois agrees. Director of new media at the Vancouver Film School and member of a progressive rock quartet, Bourgeois says "I don't see any way copying can be prevented." And he's happy about it. Internet file-sharing software, he explains, has helped niche bands like his. "Our biggest problem," he says, "is how do people find us." We like this "It was one more reason for nonexistence at Universal—and other giants—to build off singing any song of triumph.

Chris Wood



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The Toronto festival's hottest films, from *Stardom* to *The Contender*, are all about fame

Celebrating Celebrity

By Brian D. Johnson

After an exceptionally lustrous summer on the big screen, it's sure to get tedious about awards again. The Toronto International Film Festival (Sept. 7 to 16), now celebrating its 25th anniversary, has come to mark the unofficial launch of the fall season. It's where Hollywood announcements are sold in "prestige" pictures, where indie gems first catch the light—and where Canadian cinema shows off its full crop. The festival also provides an early barometer for the Academy Awards. Last year, it premiered *American Beauty*, *Crash*, *Heaven and Hell*, and *Boys Don't Cry*, which swept eight top Oscar categories. As the festival presents 329 films from 56 countries—and plays host to a horde of stars, including Robert De Niro, Al Pacino, Geoffrey Rush, Jeff Bridges and Sarah Jessica Parker—everyone is looking for the next *American Beauty*.

It may not occur that a number of premieres are generating a buzz. And with the celebrity wave of *Stardom*—by Quebec director Denis Arcand—setting the tone as the opening-night gala, celebrity itself is a pervasive theme. It can be found

in Cameron Crowe's satire *Almost Famous*, which tips rock 'n' roll delusions of grandeur in the early '70s. It surfaces again in *Stay and Miss*, David Mamet's macho comedy about the otherworldly ways of a Hollywood film crew riding roughshod over a small town. And celebrity takes a comic turn in Christopher Guest's *Best in Show*, a raucous comedy about dog owners trying to make stars of their pets. But the most timely throw down warlike is *The Contender*, a richly compelling political drama with a switchblade edge of satire. It's like *The Water Gate* with huge Jean-Alain van as a U.S. vice-presidential candidate who becomes the target of a usual smear campaign. Portraying the president, a savvy liberal with shark-like cunning, Jeff Bridges is a Democratic dream. Due for release on Oct. 13, *The Contender* should hit A-List campaign like an injection of B-12.

The festival is also showing 25 new Canadian features (including three European co-productions), although this is a relatively weak year for Canadian cinema. Of the home-

Frank Langella, James Earl Ray, Dennis Derry, Dan Aykroyd, witty and

grown films, the most dynamic is *Murderous*, Montreal writer-director Denis Villeneuve's follow-up to his 1994 debut, *On 32nd Street*. A suspensey Marie-Josée Tremblay plays an affluent beauty whose life spins out of control after the underdog assassin, killed in a motorist hit-and-run accident and become involved with his son. Filmed with a dynamic force that recalls the lost Polish master Krzysztof Kieslowski (78er *Color*), *Murderous* is far from mainstream fare—a surreal narration by a talking fish serves as a framing device—but Villeneuve shows he is a talent to watch.

Two more seasoned Quebec directors, Arcand and Robert LePage, choose Toronto to launch English-language features. Arcand's *Stardom*, tracking the rise and fall of a fashion model (Jean Carroll, Ont.), is riddled with witty asides but lacks the resonance of his landmark works, *Decline of the American Empire* (1986) and *Joe of Montreal* (1989). Even as *Stardom* explores the moral vacuums of celebrity, it seems reflected by it.

LePage, shooting in English for the first time, permeates *Poésie* (film). From the lyrical images of the opening credits floating on water, the film is a feast with visual rapture. Beauty abounds. But although the camera takes the play outdoors, not to Magdalen Islands, the script—adapted by John Hightson from his own play—is fairly theoretical. Echoing the dualism that haunts so much of LePage's work, the film focuses on two characters: Jean McCann and Tilda Swinton, who live almost different lives at once. After the tragedy of *Le Capricieux* (1993) and the loss of his son (1998), with *Poésie*, LePage is struggling as ever, but he finds in a dialogue between the worlds of men and women.

Canadian films with global names deserve more this year's Canadian crop. If single-minded American is the hard currency of American cinema, Canada seems fixated on tales of divided identity and dramatic paradox. Deeply, a Maritime gothic tale by *Rebecca St. John*, *Deeply*, sets between past and present, the dialogue infused with "Maritime" accents that range from Cape Breton to Blomidon. Dubois, *The Law of Emotions*, a grim drama from John Gopson (Quebec), dips between known in a surreal narrative (Sarah Polley, *Remains of the Day*), and their odd actor (Dane Cook, Sean McCann) working into a log dream house. While Gopson's camera does on the intentional sense of old references in *Sarah*, *Quebec* filmmaker Gary Barsby constructs *Superheroes* as an urban labyrinthine office workers tale best to see who can last the longest under weariness and loss.

With two dozen Canadian films chosen together, there is a convergence of themes—namely alienation, anomie, obsession, disease, drug abuse and crowding. Of four movies dealing with addiction, *Cherish*, *Virgin*, *Love*, *Good* (1995), *Virgin* has the most. It's the Toronto writer-director doing dys-

A rock 'n' roll coming of age

Almost Famous

Directed by Cameron Crowe

The young "personal film" and "Hollywood movie" are rarely synonymous, but this jolly offering from American writer-director Cameron Crowe is an exception to the rule. Crowe's career has meandered from the dusty-beds check of *Fast Times at Ridgemont High* (1982), which he wrote, to the Tom Cruise redux of *Jerry Maguire* (1996), which he wrote,

into a Rolling Stone assignment to write a feature about a mid-level rock band called Silverstar. William is the ultimate film thriller to be admitted into the world of the backstage pass.

But as he goes on the road with the band, befriending the musicians and their act-out-of "band wife"—glorified groupies—William starts to lose his bearings. He develops a crush on band aid princess Penny Lane (Kate Hudson). And in the love between "on" and "off" the mood is blurred in the general de-bauchery, he experiences the classic dilemma of the journalist who goes too close to his subject.

Crowe has put together a terrific cast. Frances McDormand is a merrit as the boy's plumed mother. An acidic Philip Seymour Hoffman furrows the story with manipulative man as the boy's mentor, the hit rock critic Lester Bangs. And with the quality casting, Billy Crudup, among, is Silverstar's self-proclaimed guitarist.

Crowe gives a precise backstage portrait of an early '70s rock band. Although the movie is unapologetic, not heavy-handed, *Almost Famous* is often reminiscent of Rob Marshall's *The 400 Blows* (1984), the movie that remains the gold standard in rock 'n' roll satire. And with *Special Tap* being re-released in theaters and on DVD this week, the comic potential of rock's golden years has never seemed richer.

The movie is closely based on Crowe's experience as a San Diego teenager who took a summer job to work on a record label in L.A. and was on the staff of Rolling Stone by 16. Patrick Fugate makes an engaging debut as Crowe's fictional alter ego, Williams, a ready adolescent who bluffs his way



Fugate, Hudson, provides backstage portrait

B.D.J.

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Films

music performances from a cast that includes singer Deborah Cox. The plot feels contrived, but Viggo has a great eye and an instinct for emotional truth. *Love Come Down* focuses on two brothers, an angry brute (Martin Ganssmann) and a recovering addict (Larsen Tane). Ganssmann pops up again as a heroin addict in his own rough-hewn dramatic debut, *We All Fall Down*. And Leonard Finkler's moving film feature, *The Perfect Son*, presents another pair of brothers, one a recovering addict (David Caron) and the other dying of AIDS (Colin Hanks). No one ever said Canadian movies were supposed to be fun.

Many of Canada's top directors, however, are between movies—which means they were free to rehearse short films for a series of 10 "Prolifera" to celebrate the festival's 30th anniversary. And, aside from arriving as a candid snapshot of the Canadian cinematic profession, the Prolifera are fun.

As if involving the Bible on a grand scale, Winnipeg's David Guy Maddux updates a virtual Isaac story in his kaleidoscopic minutes with *The Heart of the World*, a melodrama that like a box artifact of silent film. Aaron Egoian composes *The Love* as a continuous shot of a festival couple negotiating a queer career. And with *Coma*, a funny and poignant meditation on a woman's life, the moving image, David Cowling's student work may be the most personal film of his career: on video, a father talks about aging in his beds with a giant movie camera, and people in his bed has close-up.

And the festival unfolded in opening-night audience with *Congratulations*, a side-splitting spoof by Newfoundland director Mike Jones. Shot in the current style of a vintage CBC documentary, it shows Jones—along with sister Cathy Jones and Mary Walsh of *The Heart Pt. 22 Museum*—being assailed by interviewers from an airport, then flown to the university standing in the "world-class" city of the Toronto Festival can take a joke after 25 years of trying to prove itself, perhaps it has indeed come of age. ☐



Charles Gordon

The price of success

Some time in the past decade, people decided to leave their VCRs behind and venture out into the night to go to the movies. That was a good thing. Society was benefiting not a whiff from economic. But the born-again managers had changed. They were the same people who went out to the clubs in their youth. They wanted something different. They wanted to go to the movies to see the side of the movie they would be seeing. A greater range of movies was necessary, not to mention a more kind of range of snacks and chairs as comfortable as those in their living rooms. All those years with the VCR had made people see the importance of the movies to their lives.

The movies should have benefited from this trend, artistically as well as commercially. And they have. The head of journalism at the festival, the same week, *Ottawa* newspapers carried word of the closing of one of the city's great movie houses, the *Sorbonne*, and *Montreal* newspapers carried headlines about the opening of the *Montreal International Film Festival*—better said, especially, bigger than ever. A media coverage of 700 would spread the 25th version of the festival, and the *Sorbonne* was there would be 329 films from 55 countries in 10 days. But something had gone lost, perhaps in our society's growing obsession with giving. The *Sorbonne* was the *Sorbonne*, head of the Canadian Film Centre, and a former director of the *Sorbonne* festival. "Today we have a totally different culture," Clarkson said. "Look at the coverage of *Sorbonne*. It's about perception and their perspective and what they have for lunch and less about the films themselves."

The festival has become a massive event, with the power to lure Hollywood stars and the people who must see them, and write about what they had for lunch. It has the power to attract huge crowds and drive money to a source attraction. The festival is as interesting as ever, according to some of the people around it, the focus on stars and Hollywood brings a necessary component to draw in the media and the public and give them what they had in the festival's massive opening days—the chance to discover unknown films. The trade-off is that the festival has also lost some of the power it once had to focus attention on these little-known films, directors and performers, including Canadian ones.

The original festival probably stands in relation to today's much the way the *Sorbonne* does to the AMC. Kansas 24, a few kilometers away in the western suburbs. The *Sorbonne* had only one screen, but it was a big one. The room itself was spacious, with elaborate old-style decor. The lobby was big.

Charles Gordon is a columnist with *The Ottawa Citizen*.

There was a feeling of substance to it. When a particular type of movie—say, *The English Patient*—was playing, a movie in which the usual dimension was important, and the movie was on a number of screens around town, people who loved movies would say, "Make sure you see it at the *Sorbonne*."

But not enough people loved movies that way. Too many loved movies in a different way, loved the idea of having dozens of them from which to choose in one building, loved the experience of walking into a lobby full of noise and flashing lights, modern as an airport, entering their choice of theatre, No. 17, much as they would enter an airplane, after a long walk down carpeted corridors. They also loved—and who wouldn't—the experience of sitting into a soft wide seat, with lots of legroom and good visibility, in front of a big screen, surrounded by a big sound system.

We probably love movies more than we ever did, but it is *The Movies* we love, not particular ones. You can drive, particularly in summer, past one of these big-box movie houses and check the menu on the sign outside. It is the movie equivalent of TV's 100 channels and nothing on. In the parking lot is 12. The entertainment pages of the newspapers are full of news about movies. The TV guide is full of programs about movies and the people in them. Talk to people under 35 about the movies and it is clear that they see them all. But the movies are equally important to the aging boomers who still have the big picture-screen. That's when those comfy chairs come in.

We have elevated the movies to an exalted status in our lives. We should be able to make the movies better. If we care more about movies, we should care more about having better ones and that should cause movie-makers to make better ones. It doesn't seem to be happening. The good movies are rare these days as good as anything made in the various Golden Ages called by critics. But there are more bad ones than good ones, and many of the bad ones do quite well, if you read the box-office figures.

Why should that be in an age where we are better educated, and certainly more film-savvy, than ever before? It is a question that bedevils all the arts. Look at how big stage festivals and jazz festivals have become. Is the Montreal International Jazz Festival better, now that you can't find a place to stand on St-Catherine Street? Is Edmonton's Fringe Festival better now that it is a more attractive?

The answer from some would be yes. The answer from others would be, not necessarily. Either way, you can see how important the audience is. We get what we ask for. If we're not demanding, our demands are not met. If we're not being over-borne, that's what we get. For Hollywood, quality is never a problem.

Richard: the original voice of the Kid

Griffin and his trustees—among them Margaret Atwood and Michael Ondaatje—both poets as well as novelists—wondered about the reasoning behind the eye-popping figures. "The prize had to be large enough to say poetry is important, as important as fiction," explained Griffin. His \$2-million gift endows the largest literary award in Canada and the world's highest-profile poetry prize. It was a deeply satisfying moment for the industrialist, who grew up in a poetry-immersed family and came to venerate an art form "that speaks directly to the soul."

regular Lindbergh and her products capture its crutch news, a three-part

the wiles of the July black bear attack that killed inmate Mary Beth Miller near Quebec City comes Patricia Van Tigheren's harrowing story of her 1983 encounter with a grizzly bear in Alberta park. In *The Bear's Embrace* (Douglas & McIntyre), Van Tigheren's description of the attack itself is the best: "The bear leapt out of the light autumn snowfall, knocking her from a tree, chewing on her leg—a wound, but less agony than pain beside her long, earned recovery. The animaling Van Tigheren with severe, permanent facial disfigurements, making her more to the world as painful as her mythic legends. By the book's conclusion, however, when she has come to embrace the bear's attack as one that vindicates and empowers, Van Tigheren's story is a testimony of courage.

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The Pleasures of Sydney

Australia's Olympic host is a brash and booming city where folks just love a good time

By Andrew Phillips

Ripe at the beginning of his 1987 play about manners and morals in Sydney, *Enchanted City*, playwright David Williamson has one of his characters tear a strip off the place that Australians like to consider one of the most beautiful (if not the most beautiful) cities in the world. "No one in Sydney ever wastes time debating the meaning of life," proclaims the cynical literary agent Elzing Ross. "It's getting yourself a water hoseage. People devote a lifetime to the quest."

That's one common view of Australia's premiere city: blessed with a gorgeous natural setting, is the sparkling harbor at its heart; beach, moneyed, newly metropolitan and sophisticated—but also a tough crew, even phobic in its obsession with real estate and getting your own personal view over that magnificent water. Sydneyites (so the local folk call themselves) may enjoy a physical setting that

superintends) those of Rio de Janeiro, San Francisco and Vancouver for sheer beauty. But they also have a tendency to go on and on about it, and never more so than now. As they count down to the start of their biggest ever both, the Games of the XXVII Olympiad, Sydney may be as confident, upbeat and all-round pleased with itself as any city has ever been.

To be sure, it has a lot of reasons to be smug. The four million Sydneysiders enjoy a climate to rival that of Southern California (they live almost exactly the same distance from the equator as Los Angeles). Glorious white sand beaches (beaches being only the most famous of just 15 reserves from pleasing downpour dyspepsia). Then there's a richly diverse population drawn from all over the world, accustomed to varied and tenderizing as these anywhere a legendary capacity to have a good time and to top it all off, a booming economy.

The boom has been going on ever since the Games

To showcase
guiding the
Opera House,
the harbor
filled with a gorgeous
natural setting



harbour, and points toward a bold new art complex designed by architect Zaha Hadid. The building, finally opened in 1973, is the famed Sydney Opera House, whose swirling, angular roofline evokes the white sails that crowd the surrounding water, and provides

was awarded to Sydney in 1993. The city spent some \$268 million to repair streets, improve the ports, and build a new highway and rail links from the airport to the Central Business District, or CBD, at Sydney's cosmopolitan cult in downtown. Development poured in another \$4.7 billion, adding to the already impressive skyline. Another \$2.5 billion went to build the gleaming modern Olympic facilities in the western suburb of Homebush Bay, including the 110,000-seat Stadium Australia. Local leaders are upbeat, even cocky as they began welcoming the 15,000 athletes from 198 countries (including 311 from Canada) and eight million other visitors. Sydney, undeniably, is ready for its close-up.

Nowadays, when the world thinks of Australia it thinks of Sydney—but it wasn't always so. Until relatively recently, Sydney was an also-ran even among Australian cities. Melbourne, the capital of southern Victoria state, was considered the center of culture, good living and economic power. Sydney was a backwater, dismissed by haughty Melbourneans as "Sleepy Hollow," even the pubs closed at 6 p.m. When the Summer Games first went to Australia, in 1956, they went to Melbourne, which seemed natural at the time. But it was that decision that helped to shock Sydney into pulling itself together. The city rose to a second-world class and shed its mood on Circular Quay, a magnificent promenade jutting into the

the iconic symbol of modern Australia. "The Opera House did more than just provide a symbol. It drew people to Sydney's waterfront a century before. The harbor divides the city in two, and has a coastline that meanders around gentle bays and fjord-like inlets for a full 240 km—but Sydneysiders had never taken much advantage of it. That all changed. As the city grew, until the mid-1980s a jumble of wharfs, abandoned warehouses and dilapidated rail lines, were reborn with trendy new restaurants, shops and museums. The Rocks, once a seedy warren of boarding houses, bookshops and bars, was spruced up into a tourist-friendly shopping zone. The Opera House, Jan Morris wrote in her 1992 book on the city, Sydney, "is like a very emblem of fresh waters."

That may resonate deeper in Sydney than other places because its whole history is one of fresh starts. Unlike most cities, it can pinpoint its origins to an exact day—Jan. 26, 1788. It was then that a fleet of 11 British ships carrying about 780 convicts (historians don't agree on the exact number) and their parents sailed into the harbor they called Port Jackson after a 252-day voyage that took them quite literally to the ends of the earth. Most were petty thieves—the first of 85,000 prisoners transported to the colony over the next five decades by a mother country anxious to rid itself of its burgeoning criminal class. The silent tension at casual conversation between when the Opera House now stands and the site of the Harbour Bridge. They used the





Figure 1 is a conceptual framework and Figure 2a, Figure 2(b) and Figure 2(c) are illustrations of Figure 1.

The massive Sydney Olympic Park at Homebush Bay: \$2.5 billion spent on new sports facilities

largely dispossessed minority in the city. There are some 386,000 Aborigines in Australia (about two per cent of the population), with about 20,000 in Sydney. By every social, economic and medical measure, they are among the most deprived native groups anywhere, lacking even the land and political legitimacy enjoyed by many Canadian First Nations. Compared with other Australians, Aborigines have poorer housing, worse education, more addiction and disease—less of life itself. Their lives are, on average, 20 years shorter. In Sydney, many are concentrated in Redfern, a suburb notorious for crime, dilapidated housing, wretched schools and drug and alcohol abuse. It has also become a hotbed of Aboriginal activities.

Aboriginal leaders promise to make their presence felt during the Games. The focus of their protests has swung pendulums in Canada. From about 1910 to 1970, as many as one-third of Aboriginal children were taken forcibly from their parents to be raised in foster homes or state-run training centers.

The idea was to prepare them for living in the white world, but the results were predictable: families torn apart, lives destroyed. Aboriginal leaders want a formal apology from the national government for what they call the "stolen generation" and other historical wrongs, but more promise to keep their protests peaceful. "There'll be no disruption of the Games, we've said that quite loudly and clearly," says Jenny Morris, chairwoman of the Metropolitan Aboriginal Land Council.

The Games themselves, at about 70 per cent of their, will take place far from central Sydney. One of the first events, the marathon, will be held in and around the harbor, starting with a 1.5-km swim from the Opera House, followed by a 40-km bicycle race and a 10-km run past

the Royal Botanic Gardens and through the downtown skyline. But the main event will be 15 km to the west at Homebush Bay, a swampland expense that until recently was the site of a slaughterhouse and a municipal dump.

Now, the area has been redeveloped into a sparkling new Olympic Park with a dozen facilities—the 110,000-seat Stadium Australia, the 20,000-seat Sydney SuperDome for basketball and gymnastics, plus centers for swimming and diving, baseball and tennis. The New South Wales official in charge of Olympic design, Chris Johnson, proudly calls it "the largest number of sporting facilities in one location in modern Olympic history." Villages will be brought into the site on a new fast ferry up the Parramatta River, but the 300,000

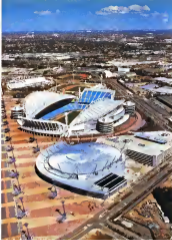


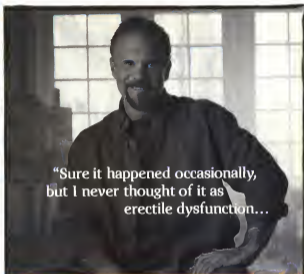
Photo: AP/Wide World

regular visitors expected every day will arrive via a special rail link to central Sydney. The set-up is designed for efficiency and security—but also nothing to take advantage of the city's spectacular inward setting.

The road to the Games hasn't been entirely smooth for Sydney Spillover from the bribery scandal surrounding Salt Lake City. Utah's bid for the 2004 Winter Games tarnished the Olympic image. Revelations that Sydney Australia would get fewer tickets than they had been promised, with the local three going to corporate sponsors and other VIPs, offended the country's sense of egalitarianism. And on glamorous Bondi Beach, local activists booted themselves up to the rocks in solidarity in an unsuccessful bid to prevent construction of a temporary beach volleyball stadium.

Now, though, even the people Sydneyden call the "Oly-dignos" have mostly fallen silent. The Games are about to begin, and the city is ready to play. "Sydney is just a wide-open field where the best and the worst of human nature comes into play, and has done for 210 years," says John Birmingham, author of a new and highly popular book, *Levantine: The Unabridged Biography of Sydney*. "Sydney doesn't care who or what you are: she'll just put her wit, her lips on you and take you for whatever you've got."

With Eric Higgins in Sydney



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Flag Bearers

By James Descoe

James Worrall has been at the centre of Olympic life for more than 60 years, but the north Toronto apartment he shares with his wife, Brigitte, doesn't show it. The living room is bright, comfortable and noticeably bereft of Games memorabilia. So Worrall, 86, has to dig into his files when a visitor asks to see a photograph of him at the opening ceremonies at the 1936 Summer Olympics. From a tired manila envelope, he slides a faded black-and-white photograph showing a procession of Canadian coaches and athletes marching onto Berlin's Olympic Stadium (below). Out in front is Worrall himself, carrying the flag. He was 22 then, a 400-m hurdler from Montreal. He was surprised that he was chosen to carry the flag since Phil Edwards had been appointed team captain. But Worrall was a good athlete, a silver medalist at the 1934 British Empire Games, and he was tall, six-foot-four, which meant that Canada's emblem would be held high as the team passed by German Chancellor Adolf Hitler.

In hindsight, it was an occasion of heavy political import. It just didn't seem so at the time. As was then customary, the Canadians passing Hitler's box offered the Olympic salute—the same raised-right-arm salute that was adopted by the Nazis. Many athletes, Worrall says, didn't even know the German leader's name, let alone his politics. More than politics, Worrall remembers the pageantry. "It was an awesome moment," he says, "coming out of the tunnel and into the sunlight, into the stadium in front of 100,000 people."

That was just the beginning of Worrall's Olympic career. In Toronto, where he moved to study law and set up a practice, he worked as a volunteer to establish provincial and national amateur sport federations, including what now is the Canadian Olympic Association. He served as Canada's flag-bearer at the 1956 and 1960 Summer Games. In 1967, Wor-



ralleyer Caroline Brunet has been chosen to lead the way into Stadium Australia on Sept. 15. But in their hearts, all of the more than 300 teamsters right behind her will be carrying the flag, too, and wish it the hopes of their country.

It is impossible to predict which athletes and teams will rise to the occasion in Sydney. The Canadian team is packed with potential, from men's beach volleyball to women's water polo. And the acknowledged medal contenders bear the graces of those expectations. Some of their stories follow.

On their jerseys and in their hearts, these Olympians carry the hopes of Canadians



Caroline Brunet
Leading the Canadian team into opening ceremonies

Canoe-Kayak

Arriving late to a Montreal restaurant, Caroline Brunet held a hand to her chest, as if to catch her breath. "My chest is beating so fast," she said. "What a morning." In addition to her normal pre-Olympic schedule, which would kill the average Canadian, she had to film a last-minute video for a sponsor and pose for a newspaper photo.

Over lunch, though, with sunlight streaming through the skylights and a plume of jazz trumpet playing softly in the background, Brunet relaxed, and after a while, it was easier, when asked, to recall only signs of her extraordinary competitive spirit.

Growing up in Lac Beauport, Que., she said, her older brother and his friends would only let her play sports with them if she kept up. That reputation might have daunted other little girls. Not Brunet. Even then, she liked the challenge. "I was not happy unless I beat them," she says. "I don't know why I have always been that way."

Brunet is still propelled by that hunger to win. It was inside the 31-year-old the reigning world champion, and the favourite to capture Olympic gold in the women's K-1 500 on the last day of the Games. And with partner Karan-



Pamona of Waverley, N.S., Bruner also has a chance to win the K-2 500, a race that begins only an hour after the finish of her individual event. All that is great, but she is most excited about her duties in the opening ceremonies on Sept. 15. There, the four-time Olympian will hoist the Maple Leaf and lead the Canadian team into Stadium Australia. Bruner is overwhelmed with pride. "When I found out," Bruner says, "it was such an honour."

Dessay is still for someone who paddled almost anonymously for much of her career. Her sport gets little financial support or public attention in Canada, so Bruner spent much of the last seven years training in Europe. It paid off, and her progress became impossible even for Canadians to ignore. After completely dominating the 1999 world championships, where she captured the 200-, 500- and 1,000-m titles, Bruner was named Canada's athlete of the year. For all her time away, though, home is on a lake near St-Sauve, in the Laurentians north of Montreal. "It's only there about two months of the year," she says, "but I love it."

Most top Canadian canoeists and kayakers remain underbelly in their own land, but these Games could change that. Wherever lapsels as Margaret Langford of Lac du Bourget, B.C., and David Ford of Edmonton, who won the K-1 slalom at the world championships last year, have serious medal aspirations. And brother Timon and Arilla Baday of Mississauga, Ont., who will compete in a pair in the C-2 500 and C-2 1,000, finished fourth at the 1999 worlds.

Still, all eyes will be on Bruner. Fans use in her the closer thing to a sure bet Canada has in Sydney. She knows there are no guarantees, and relies instead on training, taking her body to its limits—with predictable results. "I have neck problems, a hip problem, a bad shoulder, a bad back," she says. "I mean, I'm getting old, and my body is worn out." For more painful, though, were the last few metres of the 1996 Olympic final, when Bruner was roared out at the life by longtime rival Ron Kobus of Hungary. That defeat plays like a looping end in her memory, a reminder against overconfidence. Not that she needs more motivation. The goal of gold is before her. "It's exciting and scary at the same time," she says, "because I have been doing it for so long, and my expectations are so high. For me, it is all right." And she wants to win because, well, she's always been that way.

J.D.

Marianne Limpert
Hoping to improve on her Atlanta silver



Swimming

Marianne Limpert never really got to revel in the silver medal she won in the 200-m individual medley at the Atlanta Olympics in 1996. The swimmer's joy was diminished by rumormongers of a scandal involving the woman who won the event, Ireland's Michelle Smith. Smith never tested positive, but two years later, she was banned from competition for tampering with a urine sample she was submitting for drug testing. Instead of celebrating her achievement, Limpert began to feel she might have been cheated out of a victory. "Everyone kept coming up to me and saying, 'You know that gold medal was yours,'" recalls Limpert, now 27. "And that made it really hard."

As it turned out, there has been an upside, too. Had she won gold, she would likely have retired and moved on to carrying the Canadian flag at the 1998 Commonwealth Games, and qualifying for her third Olympics. "I figure everything happens for a reason," says Limpert. "And it gave me another shot to go on for another four years."

In Sydney, as in Atlanta, Canada's best medal hopes rest on the shoulders

of its three women medley competitors. Limpert, Joanne Malar, 24, of Hamilton and Greta Mythen, 26, of Calgary, the bronze-medal swimmer in both the 200- and 400-m individual medleys in 1996. Malar in particular has great swimmers going into her third Olympics. She was devastated four years ago when she failed to make the final in the 400-m individual medley despite being considered a favourite. Then she bounced back last season: at one stage, she was ranked No. 2 in the world in the 400 and No. 1 in the 200. "I'm not scared or nervous," says Malar, 26. "I know I'm going to do my job."

To win, Malar and Limpert will have to swim into uncharted waters. Beatrice Coada-Cadaru of Romania and Yana Klochkova of Ukraine each own the 200 in under two minutes and 15 seconds, whereas Malar's best is 2:13.65 and Limpert's is 2:14.35. They are undaunted. "I think I can swim a lot faster than I have," Limpert says. Adds

Malar: "If I do my best, I'm going to be fighting for a medal." Mythen, meanwhile, is ranked fourth in the 200 and was No. 1 in the 400 until three Americans recently beat 4:14—nearly two seconds better than Mythen's best. Still, swim coach Dave Johnson believes Mythen can go faster. "He's a great competitor," says Johnson, "and he's always going to give you whatever he has on the day."

Johnson isn't expecting miracles from his 39-member swim team, but he does say the women's 4 x 200-m freestyle relay squad could surprise. And he says Margie Krabe, 19, of Calgary, who is among the top 10 100-m breaststrokes in the world, could also score the moment. "The bigger the race," says Johnson, "the bigger the occasion, the more he'll help himself." And there is no bigger occasion than the Olympics.

Brenda Branson

Rowing

A Llama's Place in London, Ont., rowers Thornee Luke and Emma Robinson exchange greetings with several waitresses on their way to a booth along the back wall. They are world champions—three times over in the case of Robinson—but they have no airs. Besides, Robinson, 28, and Luke, 33, suffered a rare defeat in their final pre-Olympic regatta in Europe, finishing third behind the Romanians and Australians. So the pairs team had to dig deeper in the weeks before leaving for Australia, training more like underdogs than favorites. “We learned more from losing that race than we would have if we’d won,” Robinson explains over breakfast. “Everyone else has stepped it up, and we have to, too.”

Rowing has given Canada more Olympic medals than any other sport in the past two Summer Games, and with nine boats qualified for Sydney, the team appears set to continue its winning ways. It will be difficult to match the duos from Alaska, since several new countries are moving inroads into the upper ranks of rowing. But there are hopes for Canada's lightweight men's fours and the women's eights.

Then there is seige sculler Derek Porter. He goes into the Games ranked third in the world, but he is aiming higher. So the six-foot, five-inch veteran of two previous Olympics spent the last eight months training intensely at Elk Lake, near Victoria, building strength and refining technique. “I don’t want to look back and think I could have trained a bit harder,” says the 32-year-old chiseler, who has the chis-



Through the hell and come victorious: Derek Porter. Also, as a team, preparing for the ultimate race

eled features of a comic book hero and the ice-blue eyes of a wolf.

During the 1999 season, Porter coached himself, having had a falling out with the men's team coach Delia Moxley. “I am quite demanding,” allows Porter. But last October, Rowing Canada appointed former coxswain Pat Newman to help smooth out Porter's technique. After a disappointing third-place finish at the world championships last year in St. Catharines, Ont., Porter recognized that he needed help. “I wasn't ready then to meet the ultimate race,” he says. Now, he says, he is and after that he will be ready to strike, most likely in Sydney, where “the climate is nice, the geography is beautiful and the city is cosmopolitan.” Not coincidentally, that's also where his girlfriend, Australian actress Tara Moss, happens to live.

The women's pair is split on after-Sydney plans. Luke is undecided; Robinson will return to the University of Toronto in January. Despite the rowing commitments and a battle with thyroid cancer in 1998, Luke is just three years short of completing her medical degree. But the successors to Kathleen Hodge and Marlene Mathew are more excited by their respective jobs—Luke provides the rhythm, Robinson the stroke. Although they are very fast, their greatest asset is teamwork. “Emma is one of my best friends,” says Luke, “but even if I didn't like her, I'd trust her. I have seen her in so many stressful situations and I know that when it gets tough, she won't back down.” That's good, because the regatta in Sydney is bound to be tough.

Jonathan Horner is a sports writer in Toronto.

Sailing

There's a reason why Richard Clarke, Kit Byon and Ross Macdonald are not household names. They are sailors, which is to say they compete in almost total obscurity. Their events don't really fit the small screen, and only a small percentage of the population sails and/or understands the sport. Olympic race courses are often laid out as far as 10 km from shore, and even up close, what fans see is a chaotic jumble of masts and sails and boats going in odd directions.

That said, Canadians might learn to love their sailors. Star-class racer Macdonald is a veteran of four Games, but this is his first with Byon, 32, a former lineman in the Canadian Football League. Macdonald, 35, who won bronze at Barcelona in 1992 racing in a Star boat, qualified for Sydney when he and Byon placed second at both the 1999 and 2000 world championships.

First-class skipper Clarke is coming off an exceptional two-year run leading up to Sydney. The 31-year-old Toronto native is ranked second in the world after winning his class at five regatta this season, and he feels he's got a great shot at a medal. “I have always dreamed of winning a gold,” he says, “and I think I'm in a good position to do that now.”

Sydney harbor's calm surface and chilly winds ought to suit Clarke, who sails in similar conditions on Lake Ontario. If an advantage Clarke hopes will help him make up for his disappointing ninth-place finish in 1996. Atlanta was a painful experience, he says, but he learned from it and is better prepared now. “I have worked hard,” he says, “and there is no better time to be at my peak.” With that kind of confidence and fair winds, the Canadians could well make waves in Sydney.

Michael Sauter





The Synchrona Team
A team that gets better and better

Synchronized Swimming

Part championships are often measured by the number of medals and trophies in their collections. Another gauge, however, is the number of back those athletes inspire. Take Carolyn Widdo. For Canada at the 1988 Summer Games in Seoul, the Beaufort, Que., native was both the solo and duet (with Michelle Gaudreau) synchronized-swim gold medalist. Then ask members of Canada's 2000 team what prompted them to compete. The answers are remarkably consistent. "All I wanted as a little girl," says Jacynthe Tullon, now 23, "was to be like Widdo when I grew up." Widdo even coaxed Tullon into the sport. "I actually detested swimming," says the soft-spoken team and duet competitor. "I wanted to figure skate." That changed after watching the 1988 Games. "I had never taken a lesson," says Lévesque, 21, "but after watching Carolyn Widdo perform at the Olympics, I just jumped into the deep end and swam."

The girls Widdo inspired are now women with their sights set on reaching her Olympic double. Lévesque and partner Claire Carver-Duss, 23, are ranked fourth in the duet event. And the nine-woman team that includes Tullon, Lé-

vesque and Carver-Duss is ranked third behind Russia and Japan. "At every competition this year, the team has gotten better and better," says manager Erin Woodley. "The timing is right for Sydney."

Canadians, of course, expect to see their synchronized swimmers on the podium. But a lot has changed since the sport was introduced at the 1984 Games. In 1995, the solo and duet events were dropped, leaving only the team event (the duet will be reintroduced at Sydney). And over the past decade, France, Japan and Russia have surpassed the Canadians, who in 1998 placed a disappointing fourth at the world championships.

Since then, the team has practiced year-round in Toronto, and this year, they trained with dance instructors and had Deborah Brown, choreographer of Cirque du Soleil, offer advice on their routines. "It takes a lot of persistence to get where we are today," says 26-year-old team member Kristin Normand. "We're proud of ourselves, and we'll make Canada proud of us." Widdo, too.

Susan McClelland

OLYMPICS/SPECIAL



Triathlon

When the statistics analyze its Olympic debut in Sydney, spectators can bank on dazzling displays of athleticism and plenty of high drama. Competitors have to complete a grueling endurance run—a 1.5-km swim, then a 40-km cycling race and finally a 10-km run. But in that challenge, North Vancouver's Carol Montgomery was a great opportunity. The 34-year-old, the top-rated of Canada's four-member triathlon team, heads to Sydney on the heels of a seasonal season. Since her return to competition after surgery in 1999 to repair a partially blocked artery in her left leg, she has become a star. She qualified for the Olympics in March by winning a triathlon in Basel, then qualified to run the 10,000-m race in Sydney, becoming the first Canadian woman to compete in two sports at the same Summer Games. After the surgery, she says, "My running came back so fast it was unbelievable."

The top-ranked Australians expect to dominate the women's event, which will be contested on the opening morning of the Games. But Canada's team of Montgomery, Sheron Diamond, 33, of Kelowna, Ont., and Isabelle Turcotte-Bird, 29, of Quebec City will be a force. Montgomery and Diamond finished one-two at the Toronto World Cup in July ahead of NiLi in the world. Michelle Jones of Australia. But there is a world of difference between regular-season events and the Olympics. "When it comes to the big races, I've never won them," Montgomery says. "That sort of win is the back of my mind."

A medal isn't beyond the reach of Simon Whitfield, the lone male on the Canadian team. Simon Lessing of Britain it considered the favorite in Sydney, but Whitfield is ranked No. 1 in North America and placed fourth at the Toronto World Cup. At 25, the Victoria resident is about four years younger than the top triathletes. "For him to be where he's at, at this point," says Beate Shepley, head coach of Canada's triathlon team, "is absolutely amazing."



Amazing is a good word for Montgomery too. Prior to being diagnosed, her leg injury forced her to miss several races and had some observers doubting her chances. "In 1998 and 1999, people were really starting to question her mental toughness because she was dropping out of events," says Shepley. "She was complaining that she couldn't feel her leg." But now she's got that feeling back, and no one is doubting her chances in Sydney.

Branka Brownell

Carol Montgomery
After an injury, a veteran fights her way back into contention

Four years ago, Alison Sydor felt she had to single-handedly explain mountain biking to all the sportsmen and sportswomen who dared to ask. The sport was making its Olympic debut in Athens, and Sydor was the gold-medal favourite. Ultimately, the demands of promotion and training proved too much. When she won silver instead of gold, the biking community was shocked, but Sydor wasn't. In Athens, says Sydor, "I was feeling good—usually physically and emotionally."

Lessons learned: This time around, 34-year-old Sydor has prepared her downtime. She needs it—her race is a grueling slog over rocks, tree roots and loose dirt on steep and narrow trails. She began cycling at 20 as a road racer, and finished 12th at the 1992 Olympics. Soon after, though, she switched to mountain biking, won three world championships from 1994 to 1996, and now owns years into her second cycling career, she is still one of the most feared riders in Sydney. She is also pleased that fellow Victorian Roland Green, 25, is a contender. He finished second at the world championships in May, the same placing as Sydor. "I got my model and that was nice," recalls Sydor. "But when Roland got up there, I felt the emotion."

The rising star of road racing took the opposite path of Sydor. Genevieve Jeanson, 19, of Lacombe, Que., started in mountain biking before switching to the road. In Sydney, she joins veteran Lynn Bessner, 25, of Lac Bessner, Que., and double Olympic bronze medalist Clara Hughes, 27, of Winnipeg. All three could contend in the 120-km race, but winning requires teamwork—to conserve one rider's energy for the final sprint, the others would have to agree beforehand to sacrifice their own chances by serving as exhaustive pace early in the race.

For a third Games, Winnipeg's Tanya Duboisoff, 30, will carry Canada's hopes on the cycling track. A double gold-and-silver at last year's Pan Am, she has two fourth-place finishes in World Cup action this season. And the medal team could surprise. Vancouver's Brian Walton was recovering from knee surgery when he got to Athens in 1996, and yet he took silver, Walton, 34, is back in 2000, hoping two-wheeled lightning strikes twice.

Shauna Dornell



Alison Sydor
Rested and
ready for the
Athena ahead

Track and Field

Good thing Brandy Sutton is not the sort of man who runs himself apart over what might have been. Held to be a pacifist. After all, he could easily become how his early years were tarnished by the Ben Johnson steroid scandal due unfairly discredited so many track athletes. Sutton might also regret that it wasn't until he was in his 30s before he found a coach and a training regimen to unlock his potential, boosting him, at 33, little time to enjoy life at the top of international sprinting.

Sutton, though, describes his work as half full, or better. In Canada, he lives in a comfortable home near Montreal with his wife, Bionelle, and two daughters, Kimberley-Ann, 6, and Katherine, 4. He is working with coach Dan Mill at the University of Texas in Austin, where he is both entertained and pushed by a happy gaggle of high-energy training partners, including Donovan Bailey of Ontario, Ont. And he is proud to be one of the few speed specialists who have a serious shot at gold in the Olympic 100-m final on Sept. 23. The only "whirl" acknowledges a performance rethink. "I wish I had come here 10 years ago, because there is so much training information here that I could have used," he

says, cooling off after working out in the Texas weight room. "If I had come here at 23, 9-7½ would have been easy for me."

In Olympic terms, 9-7 means gold. American Maurice Greene's world 100-m record is 9-9 seconds, and anything close to that should contend on a Sydney track that many predict will be slow. Greene's recent performances suggest he is capable of running fast in Sydney, challenged by Ato Boldon of Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica's Oshiwelu of Nigeria. The world cards are Sutton and Bailey both briefly sidelined by recent hamstring injuries. Sutton's best time in competition this season is 10-08, well off last season's scorching 9-84. And Bailey posted the year's fourth-best time—9-38—in the spring, but was slower at subsequent meets. In Austin, though, both were completely up and, apparently living in pain. "When Canadians don't know," Bailey says conceptually, "is that they have two dominant athletes in the Games' biggest event."

This dominance is also true of Michael Bowdell of Brunswick, Ont., and Kwana Booring of Montreal, who are ranked among the top five in the high jump. Bowdell, who also stars with 76-lb

Brandy Sutton and
Donovan Bailey
Cooperators and
trainees, vying for a
new Olympic impact

In Austin, has the edge he won four straight NCAA titles for the University of Texas before turning pro last spring. And elsewhere on the track, Kevin Sullivan ran the 600-ft dash, 1,500-m race in the world, 3:31-71, a personal best. Still, the spotlight is on Sutton, who spent so many years in the wings. That is nice, he says, but it is the pursuit of speed that drives him. "I'm still learning about myself and about the sport," he says.

Bailey, meanwhile, is palpably excited about making history with a upset of Canada's 1996 victory in the 100-m—by Sutton or himself—and the 4 x 100-m relay. The favourite has not yet been chosen, but Ottawa's Glenroy Gilford is looking faster than ever, and 20-year-old Nicole Macdonald of Lével, Que., ran 18-19 at the Olympic trials in Victoria. At his Texas training site, Bailey says his confidence isn't just based on speed. "You look out there," he says, waving towards the track, "and you can see it. Brandy has that feeling. Glenroy has that feeling. I have that feeling. We have an opportunity that no other country has, and it could be really, really serious."

J.D. in Austin



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Diving

At the Monterey dives logic, "I am the most negative person being on this planet," the petite 25-year-old glimmering diver says with a laugh. "I thrive on negative energy." The best source explanation: After all, anyone who has met Montgomery knows her vibrant personality and brilliant smile suggest otherwise. But she says the performer better when the heads into water thinking she could finish first. Conversely, the blueses her disappointing 24th-place finish at the Atlanta Olympics in 1996 to feeling, well, too darned relaxed and confident. She was ranked fourth in the world and seemed a good bet for a medal. "I remember that I slept so well before the event," Montgomery says, "and that's not normal for me."

Montgomery suffered a brief bout of post-Olympic blues, and even considered retiring from sport. But she is back—and better than ever—for her third Olympics, a veteran on a young and talented diving team with plenty of potential. Alexandre Despatie of Montreal, though just 15, has solid international credentials—at 13, he won the tower gold medal at the Commonwealth Games. He could surpass some people in Sydney. "He can do virtually everything," says diving team head coach Mitch Geller.

Women, however, are the strength of the team. Montgomery's best recent result of the season came in January at the Sydney HANA World Cup, where she placed second behind Chinese teammate Li Na. Lower teammate Erika Heymans, 18, of St. Lambert, Que., a less experienced but boasts a very difficult repertoire of dives. Eryn Bulmer, meanwhile, leads the three-course springboard contingent. "She's just an extremely explosive, fun-moving and precise diver," Geller says

OLYMPICS/SPECIAL



of the 24-year-old from Calgary. She placed third at the Sydney World Cup this year. "Mentally and physically, everything is on track," Bulmer says. "I just hope I can keep that momentum leading up to the Olympics."

Based on godson finishes in recent competitions, the Canadians should grab a medal in the synchronized diving competition, which makes its Olympic debut in Sydney. In the men's and women's 10-m platform and three-course events, two men and two women will compete on identical dives off parallel boards. Bulmer will compete in the springboard synchro with North Vancouverite Hythe Hartley, 18, who trains at the same Calgary club. Montgomery and Heymans will pair up on the tower. No Canadian male diver qualified for the synchro event. "The bottom line is, it's a lot of fun," says Bulmer. "When don't two of you out there, it takes a little bit of the pressure off."

Liza Bulmer, Montgomery will be disappointed if the leaves Sydney without an individual medal. But she is also ready for life after diving. Fluently bilingual, the recently graduated from the Université de Montréal's law school and passed her Quebec bar exam with a 2.6 grade point average in her final year. It was gratifying being the only athlete on the team with such a heavy homework load. "I'm really ready to move on—I can't wait," says Montgomery, who plans to travel after the Olympics and then strike with a Montreal law firm. "I think I've really gotten the most out of this again." Which is why so many expect a positive result in Sydney from the most negative person on earth.

Brenda Beazley

Basketball

At a pre-Olympic game in Hamilton, Steve Nash's slender, 6-foot, 170-pound body absorbed through the traffic of taller opponents, then rose once and composed a score of color in the frenetic game of international basketball. The 26-year-old, who grew up in Victoria, got paid \$12 million a year to play for the NBA's Dallas Mavericks, but his role in leading Canada's underdoged Olympians to Sydney is no less valuable. Nash, however, sees himself as a role player, enjoying a peace from the game. "The chemistry—being a selfish group of guys motivated by winning, rather than by personal gain—that's a real pleasure."

Chemistry is what got the Canadian team into the Games. Last summer, Nash led the hastily assembled squad at

the qualifying tournament, where it defeated the home team, Puerto Rico, to become the first Canadian men's hoops contingent to make the Olympics since 1988. Nash admits to having a few big games, "but it was a pretty balanced effort." For Sydney, where the competition includes not only the irreplaceable United States but strong teams from Yugoslavia, Australia, Lithuania, Russia and Spain, he expects the masters of Canadian basketball. "We're not going to be as talented as other teams, so the sum of our parts has to be greater."

Among those parts are Todd MacCallach, the seven-foot Winnipeg center now with the Philadelphia 76ers, as well as several athletes who have played professionally from South America to the Middle East. They include Toronto-area veteran Sherman Hamilton, Ross Brown and Michael Merila, as well as Peter Gerasim and

Greg Newton of Niagara Falls. On Canadian Olympic hoops squads are coached by two former national-team stars: Jay Triano for the men and Bev Smith for the women. Smith seems to have the more difficult role, continuing to rebuild a team she took over in 1997. Trying to knock off Australia, Russia and the United States will be returning Olympians Karla Kirch of Calgary and starting forwards Kelly Boucher, also of Calgary, and Dianne Newman of Fredericton. Cal Routledge of Aurora, Ont., and Stacy Dales of Brookville, Ont., are the starting guards, while Tiffany Sutton-Brown of Markham, Ont., starts at center. "Qualifying for Sydney gave us more time together and more bonding," says coach Smith. "Our goal is the top-eight medal round. Then, we'll take it one game at a time."

John Nicol



After
Montreal
from negative
thinking, a lawyer
sees positive results

Photo: David J. Phillip/USA Today



Daniel Igali
A marked man in
the 69-kg class

Wrestling

As a teenager growing up in Nigeria, Daniel Igali dreamed his bedroom wall with a poster of a Canadian athlete, Ben Johnson. But then, before scandal struck, the sprinting sensation was a source of inspiration. Igali, an athlete at least as talented as his snow-white hero, has achieved success at much competitively as Johnson, but he has experienced none of the celebrity since moving to Canada. It could be the sport in which he competes—wrestling—wearing a low profile in Canada, especially compared with the 100-m sprinter. Whenever the reason, when Igali won Canada's first-ever senior world championship in the sport last year, his achievement generated an underwhelming response. Not a single reporter—or anyone else—showed up to welcome him home in Vancouver from the 1999 world in Turkey. There was little more attention this spring, even when the Canadian Sports Awards named the 26-year-old wrestler the country's amateur male athlete of the year.

But Igali may be about to change all that in the ring-science circle pointed on a sweaty mat in Sydney, B.C., muscular, affable and articulate. Igali is by far the brightest medal hope as a Canadian Olympic wrestler, and of only four. Ranked next is Gas Samsarov, 28, from Montreal; he won silver at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics and third at this spring's Pan American Championships in his 58-kg class. But Igali is clearly at the top of his game. His victory over American Lincoln McIlwain to win the world 69-kg title, he jokes, has made him "a marked man" in Sydney for competition from half-a-dozen traditional wrestling powerhouses.

Igali is used to breaking with tradition. The only boy among five sisters by his schoolteacher mother, as well as 15 other half-siblings and brothers by his father's other three

wives (polygamy is legal in Nigeria), Daniel learned early how to compete. And so wrestle. The sport was a traditional pastime in the church-ruled village of Enwen where he spent his childhood. Igali's introduction to international freestyle rules came in 1990, at age 16. His first tournament was the Nigerian championship he won.

In 1994, he represented Nigeria at the Commonwealth Games in Victoria. By then, however, Igali had come to feel that his athletic and academic ambitions were endangered by Nigeria's tumultuous politics. As the Games were ending, Igali made the difficult decision not to return home. He revealed his intention to the only Canadian he knew: the volunteer driver of the Commonwealth Games van that had chartered him around Victoria. Tom Murphy and his wife, Susan, took the young athlete in. "He was friendly, enthusiastic, quiet," says Susan, "and focused. He had a goal he wanted to wrestle for Canada, and win some medals."

In 1997, Igali enrolled at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, B.C., studying criminology and training under coaches Dave McKay and Mike Jones. That same year, he won his first medal for Canada, at the Austrian Grand Prix.

Now, at last, other Canadians are beginning to take notice of the soft-spoken wrestling sensation. General Mills signed an agreement this year that has spotlighted Igali's face on boxes of Cheerios. And while he now visits his family in Nigeria at least yearly, the Surrey resident says "I see living here forever." If the journey from Enwen to Sydney, via Victoria and Surrey, seems impossible, to Igali it has shodden logic. "I think God sort of plans something for you," he says. If that plan includes Olympic gold, it should also bring Igali all the acclaim that has shaded him until now.

Chris Wood

Boxing

They know Ross isn't your typical light-heavyweight boxer. Yes, he can flatten his opponent with a thundering left hook, but he can also bend their shorts while they lie motioned on the canvas. Canada's top medal hope in the ring, who has a diploma in fashion design and his own line of sports apparel, once knocked down light-heavyweight world champ Michael Smother of the United States during an Olympic qualifying bout last March in Tampa, Fla. And he's not shy about declaring his prospects in the 69-kg weight class. "I have very high expectations," says Ross, 25, of Brampton, Ont., who finished fifth in

1996. "I don't feel like there will be any problem for me getting the gold." Canada will head to Sydney with only seven boxers, thanks to a revamped qualification system. Games organizers reduced the total number of spots available in boxing's 12 classes. And for the first time, North and South America formed one qualifying group, meaning that Canada's seven entrants—four fewer than were in Atlanta—had to compete against room fighters for fewer spots in Sydney.

Among them, Mark Stuenkel, 26, of Toronto, has a shot in the 91-kg heavyweight division if he can avoid Cuban double-gold medalist Félix

Savitt until the medal sound. And Mike Strange of Niagara Falls, Ont., could contend in the 63.5-kg class. The defence-oriented 30-year-old over two Commonwealth Games golds and is looking to improve on his quarter-final finish in Atlanta.

The boxes are pitted at random for the Games, without regard to ranking, and will fight in a single-elimination tournament that runs from Sept. 16 to Oct. 1. And although Cuba and the United States are the teams to watch, when the bell rings, Canada's pugilists promise to come out swinging.

Michael Sneider



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Gymnastics

Canada is sending only two male gymnasts to Sydney, its smallest Olympic male gymnastics team since 1964. But what it lacks in numbers, it makes up in potential. Alexander Jukov, a 22-year-old émigré from Tbilisi, Georgia, who now lives in Montreal, finished second on the high bar at last year's world gymnastics championships in Tuzla, China. And after eight stops on the World Cup circuit this season, he is ranked first in the event. Kyle Shewfelt of Calgary, an 18-year-old who is ranked eighth in the floor exercise, is being groomed to peak in 2004. "Male gymnasts usually reach their prime at the age of 22 or 23," says Hardy Fluk, acting men's program director. "So we're interested in seeing how he deals with the pressure."

Like Shewfelt, the Canadian women are not expected to reach the podium. But they show great promise and it could improve on their 10th-place finish in the team competition at the 1999 worlds. Six gymnasts, led by veteran Olympian Yvonne Toussie, 20, of Kitchener, Ont., will compete in the vault, uneven bars, balance beam and floor exercise. "This year's team is one of the best Canada has ever sent to an Olympics," says Lise Simard, program director for Gymnastics Canada.

The women's team improvement is credited to Andree Rodionova, a former Russian coach who joined Gymnastics Canada in 1996 and set up a rigorous practice regimen that, in terms of fitness, puts the athletes on a par with those from top-ranked Russia and Romania. One beneficiary has been 16-year-old Kate Richardson of Coquitlam, B.C. "It's been a total hard work over the last year, but it's worth it," she says. "I'm getting more and more confident, and I've made my Olympic dream come true."

Susan McClelland

For the list of the Canadian team members go to www.mcclelland.ca

"Aren't Neil and Tracy a bit 'slow'?"

As track and field athletes, Neil and Tracy Melillo of Kelowna have a lot of hurdles to overcome—particularly those imposed by conventional thinking.

Neil and Tracy are twins. They're also mentally disabled. But witness them on the track, and what you'll see are two remarkable athletes. Both started in Special Olympics at age 16 and now, more than ten years later, the Melillo twins are outgoing and independent (not to mention fiercely competitive) individuals. In fact, the only competition they don't embrace is sibling rivalry. The two share a wall full of medals, and big dreams for the future.

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Home-team Advantage

By Michael Sneider

When Gordon and Marion Malar began looking into travel and accommodations at the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta so that they could see their daughter, Joanne, swim, they encountered one major problem: cost. The Milans, of Hamilton, found that the Atlanta Committee for the Olympics Games had reserved most of the city's 62,000 hotel rooms for V.I.P.s, sponsors and media, and that any rooms still available were in the \$300-a-night range. With the cost of tickets for Joanne's five-person cheating section—two parents, a brother and two sisters—the Milans figured they needed more than \$10,000 a week in the Games. To mitigate those expenses, the Milans booked their competing trailer down to Georgia and parked in a campground 30 minutes from the swimming venue. Even with that, the bills were glacially high when they got home from Atlanta, and as soon as they were taken care of, Gordon and Marion had to start saving for Sydney 2000.

The only way most athletes get to the Summer Games is through the sacrifices of the families

Most parents sacrifice time and money to help their kids pursue sports, the art or academics. They spend years rolling out of bed at 5 a.m. for practice and organizing their weekends around one event or another. The Milans' experience was no different—except for one thing. As parents of a budding Olympian, they paid a higher price in time and money covering equipment, coaching and international travel. "Totally on my wife and I realized we were going to spend our money on the kids," says Gordon, who recently retired from teaching Grade 5. "So, we've had to sacrifice other things—like putting money in the bank and saving for retirement."

Mala's great success in the pool eventually attracted corporate endorsements that, with government funding, now enable her to cover her training expenses without leaning on her parents. But the vast majority of Canadian Olympic athletes get no corporate support at all, and training and competition schedules make it difficult to secure and keep part-time jobs. Sport Canada, a department within the heritage ministry, underwrites some expenses, including tuition costs for those athletes taking courses or attending postsecondary school. It also pays carded athletes—those who have international standing in their respective sports—monthly stipends of up to \$1,100. But that only goes so far. Many of Canada's top competitors in summer sports have had to rely on family to survive.

In some respect, the athletes' lot has improved in recent



The Benarthals celebrating Larissa's bronze in 1996 at the Bank of Montreal

months. Last May, the federal government added \$23 million to its funding of Sport Canada, and that boosted the amount sent directly to athletes to \$14.5 million a year from \$9.1 million. Senior athletes who had been receiving \$810 cheques use their income jump to \$1,100 a month. That is welcome, but it is nothing compared to what similar competitors get in Britain, Australia and the United States. And it barely makes up for what Canadian athletes lost in the 1990s. Between 1993 and 1995, Ottawa-based Sport Canada's overall budget shrank 40 per cent, severely curtailing the athletes' organizations' funding capabilities. Although the amount on

each athlete's cheque did not shrink, organizations were forced to make up part-time coaches, subcontract and put off buying new equipment.

The recent pay increase pleased David and Carolyn Benarthal, but it was a little late. Their daughter, Larissa, who was a bronze medalist in Atlanta in the quadruple sculls, spent the first five years of her rowing career working part-time jobs and sitting on cheques from her parents' truck home in Walkerton, Ont. Larissa, now 29, who will be competing in the women's eight at Sydney, completed three years at the University of British Columbia before deciding to focus exclusively on rowing. Finally, at the 1995 world championships in Tampere, Finland, the five-foot, eight-inch rower, who handles chronic asthma whenever she trains or competes, won a silver medal in the quad and then qualified for funding.

That helped ease her financial concerns, but for things like a \$6,000 training boat, annual fees at a local rowing club or even an assistant, Larissa still had to rely on the Bank of Mom and Dad. Luckily, her parents were in a position to help—her's a veterinarian, and a retired nurse. "It's a difficult part of Canadian sports," says Carolyn. "I wonder how many good athletes are missed because their parents couldn't help them."

That's almost what happened to Jackie Lance, but thanks to corporate help, she's been able to train full time with Canada's well-known team. Lance, from Delta, B.C., plays second base and shortstop for the team and works part-time at Home Depot in Richmond, B.C. under a program that pays her full-time wages for a 30-hour work week. The 26-year-old infielder says her Home Depot job is the only way she's been able to crack the marriage lineup. "I was on the bench at the Pan Am Games and I knew I needed to spend more time training," says Lance. "So this program is perfect for me."

Even when an athlete receives financial support from sponsors, it is still enormously expensive for parents to get to Olympic sites. Airfares to Sydney, for instance, cost about \$2,000, even for tickets booked well in advance. Again, hotel rates are at their peak—some heights, and tickets for top events—if they were available at all—sold for up to \$1,200. The Milans are lucky. Joanne, ranked fifth in the world in the 200 in individual medley and holder of eight Canadian and three Commonwealth records, is sponsored by Sears Canada, which is paying for her parents' accommodations, travel and event tickets in Sydney—a cost of about \$20,000. That has allowed the Milans to use their savings to take the rest of the family. "Before Sean sponsored us, I told the other kids they were on their own," Gordon says. "But it's great now—Joanne's biggest fans are her brother and sisters."

It's not, of course, as if everyone can get corporate support. Mark Lewry, the executive director of sport and performance for the Canadian Olympic Association, estimates that fewer than



Malar fears that funding cutbacks will result in poorer performances in future

five per cent of Canadian athletes receive private sponsorship. Funding from other sources is growing, but, he says, citing I.B.K. athletes in the COA, he must since 1997, but the business community seems unimpressed in all but the most high-profile competition. International Management Group's Nadine Cooke, who represents Milani and seven Olympic athletes, says the lack of private

funding may be the result of a misconception that sponsoring an athlete is currently costly. As well, Canadian athletes receive little exposure at home. (Most Summer Olympic events take place in Asia, at least between Olympic years), so the corporate world finds funding amateur but worthwhile that professionals such as basketball's Vince Carter or hockey's Curtis Joseph.

Dean Goffney, secretary of state for amateur sports, says that makes the role of government much more vital. With the recent focus in direct-to-athlete funding, he says, things are going in the right direction, but he adds that Ottawa "needs to bring back stability." Canada's Olympic team performance rose when more money was injected into the system 20 years ago, and indeed fell the opposite way after a crash in the 1990s. Canada's team even produced Canada's performance in Sydney will not come close to its 22 medals and 11th-place overall standing in Atlanta. "We have a chance of maybe—maybe—getting that same number of medals," Lewry says of the 2000 team. For that, Canadians will have some good athletes—and their parents—to thank. ■

Seeking the wrong kind of help

There was a widespread cry of "Not again!" when two Canadian Olympic medalists found problems in original coaches. Larissa, 32, of Schenckberg, Ont., missed positive for cocaine—again—and was banned for life. He was later suspended from competition just before the 1996 Atlanta Games for the same offence, but he appealed and was reinstated only seven months later. "Irrance Milani, manager of the Canadian rowing team, expressed frustration at being 'a lightning rod on our team,' calling it 'a complete waste'.

Canoe for Ethics in Sport reviewed the appeal quickly but upheld its original conclusion. Larissa, 32, of Schenckberg, Ont., missed positive for cocaine—again—and was banned for life. He was later suspended from competition just before the 1996 Atlanta Games for the same offence, but he appealed and was reinstated only seven months later. "Irrance Milani, manager of the Canadian rowing team, expressed frustration at being 'a lightning rod on our team,' calling it 'a complete waste'.

World Beaters

There are plenty of bright new stars, but some veteran Olympians plan to reassert themselves in Sydney



CATHY FREEMAN, AUSTRALIA

Even without her off-track coaching, Freeman would be one of the Sydney Olympics highest-profile overperformers. The 27-year-old runner is the defending world champion in one of the Games' glamour events, the women's 400-m. But Freeman has also been in the news because of her ongoing court battle with ex-boyfriend Nick Bidaie, who charged Freeman with breach of contract after she fired him as her coach. She has been political as well: an Aboriginal, she has very publicly supported Australia's native population and is bid for equal rights.

Despite all the distractions, Freeman has not lost a 400-m sprint since 1998, and remains a huge fan favorite in Australia. "It would make me cry if I won a gold medal in Sydney," she says. "People have really embraced me and taken me into their hearts and into their minds." In Sydney, neonatal French sprinter Marie-Josée Péro, who has won gold in the last two Olympics, will pose the greatest threat to the Aussie. But for Freeman, Péro is simply one more obstacle on route to the top of the medal podium.



HAILE GEBRSELASSIE, ETHIOPIA

In the tradition of so many African Olympians, Gebreselassie became a great runner out of necessity. It was a 25-km round-trip from his home in Addis to his school, and he routinely ran the whole way. This year, an Achilles tendon injury has forced Gebreselassie to return to a training regimen similar to his school days. At his doctor's request, he has cut his daily run to only 30 km, and eliminated his training for indoor events.

When the distance legend made his Olympic debut at the 1996 games, he won the 10,000-m event, but the track in Atlanta took its toll on Gebreselassie's feet. They were so badly blistered that the owner of 15 world records had to take himself out of the 5,000-m race. Gebreselassie, 27, currently holds the world record in the 5,000- and 10,000-m. He has indicated that after Sydney he will retire from these events, focusing instead on training for marathons. But for now, winning gold in his two specialties remains his goal—one well within his grasp if his body holds up.

MARION JONES, UNITED STATES

If all events were an Olympic event, American track star Marion Jones would be the overwhelming favorite for gold. Consider the 24-year-old sprinter from Los Angeles has qualified to compete in the 100-m, 200-m, 4 x 100-m relay, 4 x 400-m relay and the long jump. And get this: "Five golds is not just talk—it's possible," she says of her expectations in Sydney. "Many athletes can do it, it's myself."

Jones can back her boast. She won all three individual running events at the U.S. Olympic Trials in July, beating most of the world's best sprinters—mostly contemporary Jamaican Miller, the world's No. 2 in both the 100- and 200-m. And since the Americans dominate the relays, the five-foot, 10-inch Jones appears well on her way to making track history in her Olympic debut. Only Americans



Just Owens (1996) and Carl Lewis (1984) have won four track golds in a single Summer Games.

The long-jump is Jones's weakest event. Although the University of North Carolina graduate was ranked No. 1 in 1998, she finished a disappointing third at the world championships last year. Typically, Jones regards that as a fluke. "I know I can jump like I did in '98," she promises. "I have it in me." American TV viewers will have little choice but to follow Jones's record assault NBC promises to track her quest "like a mini-series."



NAIM SULEYMANOGLU, TURKEY

Naim Suleymanoglu is proof that weightlifting isn't just for the big boys. Standing at only five feet, the fiery, 33-year-old Turk has won gold in the last three Summer Games and is extremely confident going into Sydney—even after a bronze medal performance at the European Championships in April.

Born Naim Salazar, he was one of the more than two million minority Turks who then lived within Bulgarian borders. His name was changed to Naim Suleymanov as part of a government strategy to assimilate the Turk population. As Suleymanov, he became a world-record holder in 62-kg class but while attending a dinner during the 1986 world championships in Melbourne, Australia, he insisted out and flew to Ankara, the Turkish capital, where he won citizenship and yet another new name—Suleymanoglu. In areas around the world, however, he carried the name by which he is best known by fans everywhere: Pasha Hercules. His main regret is that, because of the Soviet Bloc boycott, he did not compete in the 1984 Games in Los Angeles, and missed a chance to win gold at his peak. He is confident heading into Sydney. "I know," he says, "I am going to win again."

INGE DE BRUIJN, NETHERLANDS

Top de Bruijn is first at last—and making the most of it. Over a three-week span in May and June, the Dutch swimmer shattered world records in four events—the 50-m and 100-m butterfly and the 50- and 100-m freestyle. For years, de Bruijn's achievements have been overshadowed by the stunningly successful Chinese swimmers, but the suspension of many of them for illegal drug use has finally allowed the 27-year-old de Bruijn to break away from the pack. In Sydney she will swim in the 50- and 100-m free, 100-m fly, 4 x 100-m free and 4 x 100-m medley. And despite stiff competition from Americans Jenny Thompson and Amy Van Dyken, as well as Swedish Therese Alshammar, de Bruijn is expected to be a smash in Sydney.



MEN'S BASKETBALL, UNITED STATES

Singhale O'Neal won't be there, neither will Kobe Bryant or Tim Duncan. But if some of the NBA's biggest names are skipping Sydney, enough of them will be there to ensure a third straight gold for the American Dream Team, which in the last Olympics blew away opponents by an average of 32 points per game. This year's 12-member squad features Alonso Mourning, Kevin



Garnett, James Kidd and Gary Payton, along with the Toronto Raptors' Vince Carter and the Vancouver Grizzlies' Shafer Alder-Raines. And with such a deep bench, the team knows they won't get the same amount of playing time they've used to in the NBA, which they all agree is a fair trade-off. "There's a lot of talent and I think the guys understood that we're here for the ultimate goal," says Carter. Let the battle for silver begin.



LANCE ARMSTRONG, UNITED STATES

Lance Armstrong has already won the war—the Olympics is just another battle. In October, 1996, Armstrong was diagnosed with testicular cancer shortly after placing sixth in the time trial and 12th in the road race at the Atlanta Olympics. By the time the illness was detected, it had spread to his lungs and brain. But after two years of treatment, the Austin, Tex., native returned—not just to compete but to win. Following his second straight triumph at the Tour de France, Armstrong, 30, will once again ride the road race and the time trial. But he will have to overcome another setback: a collision with a car last month that broke a vertebrae in his back.

LI NA, CHINA

No one in the world can make a 10-m free fall look as graceful as Li Na. And Li has mastered the platform dive at the tender age of 15, much to the chagrin of her closest competitors. If she maintains her current desire to win, she could dominate the sport for the next decade. She has won four World Cup events this season, including a pre-Olympic event at the Cairns pool in Sydney in which Canadian Anne Montminy finished second.



SUSAN O'NEILL, AUSTRALIA

Susan O'Neill earned the nickname "Missile Butterfly" last May when she broke the world record in the 200-m butterfly. But that doesn't mean the 27-year-old is a race-over wonder. In fact, the Queensland native has set her sights

MEN'S BASEBALL, CUBA

In Cuba, government leaders view success on the baseball field as proof that socialism works. Gold medals in 1992 and 1996 made Fidel Castro happy, but a handful of political defections by national team members at recent international competitions have embarrassed the Cubans—and displaced their lineup. Still, they will field a formidable squad led by power-hitters Orestes Lirio and Orestes Kindelan. In this first Olympic baseball tournament in which professionals are competing—though the Americans will all be minor-league—the United States should expect a challenge, as will Japan, Australia and South Korea.

at the 200-m freestyle record—and the gold medal that would eventually come with such a feat at the Games. If she wins both of her specialties in Sydney, she will be the first Aussie swimmer to take two golds since Shane Gould captured three at the 1972 Olympics in Munich.

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Doctor of Podiatric Medicine

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Shelton Nadal, Doctor of Podiatric Medicine, specializes in ambulatory or minimal incision foot surgery for treatment of bunions, hammertoes, corns on top or between toes, as well as certain types of calluses.

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"The work can be performed painlessly in the office under local anesthetic while our patients watch television."

In addition, Nadal says post-operative

costs or crutches are rarely needed. "Our patients can walk right away, get back to their normal activities and walk much sooner. Scars do not have to be hidden."

Nadal also performs laser surgery for ingrown nails and warts and toenail and foot pain.

Nadal earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Toronto in 1975 and received his Doctor of Podiatric Medicine degree in Cleveland in 1979. He completed his residence in foot surgery in Philadelphia in 1980. Following his residency he remained in Philadelphia to study the ambulatory foot surgery technique of one of the pioneers of the field.

Says Nadal, "I knew I had to learn the technique because his patients were able to walk right away with very little discomfort."

Nadal has treated people from as far away as England, Belgium, Germany, the Ukraine, Israel and South America.



Before



After surgery (wound)

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OLYMPICS/SPECIAL



HICHAM EL GUERROUJ, MOROCCO

Turning the last lap of the 1,500-m final in Atlanta, the race favourite Hicham El Guerrouj got his feet tangled and fell while battling Algerian Noureddine Morcelis for the lead. The result was a disappointing 12th-place finish. In the four years since the fall, El Guerrouj, now 26, has only lost one 1,500-m race. He holds the indoor and outdoor world records in the 1,500 m and in the mile—in fact, many experts consider him the greatest mile ever. He is also tough, winning the 1,500-m at the 1999 World Championships shortly after suffering from a serious case of hemorrhoids. He's well-respected, too: last year, he was Morocco's Goodwill Ambassador for UNICEF.



LI JU AND WANG NAN, CHINA

There is one bad thing about being the world's top-ranked double table-tennis team in singles you have to play each other. Wang Nan, 22, and Li Ju, 21, are also ranked one-two in singles. In April, the pair met at the Japan Open, where Li came out on top. But Nan scored last revenge, winning the China Grand Prix in May. The dynamic duo could well meet again at Sydney.



FELIX SAVON, CUBA

Sometimes politics gets in the way of training a legend. In 1988, Cuba boycotted the Olympics in Seoul, costing heavyweight boxer Felix Savon a shot at his first Olympic medal. But he was on an invite list in 1992 and 1996, and that year he will try to tie the Olympic boxing record held by outstanding Toffin Severson, who won three golds between 1972 and 1980 in a single weight class. At 33, Savon—sixfeet, five-inches and 199-matched pounds—is still world amateur champion. A lifelong puncher with a mill-lit right, he has a shot at wearing his golden hat trick.

MAURICE GREENE, UNITED STATES

His licence plate—which read "Mo-Gold"—helps define the man. Maurice Greene is the world's fastest human, blitting 100 m in 9.79 seconds. But in July at the U.S. trials in Sacramento, Calif., the 29-year-old Olympic drama appeared to be shredded. In the 200-m final, the brash superstar suffered a hamstring injury and was forced to pull up short of the finish, failing to qualify in the event and dashing the possibility of three golds in Sydney. But Greene has overcome his injury and will still compete in his 100-m specialty and as anchor on the American 4 x 100 relay team. And he seems ready. In Berlin, at the last major pre-Olympic competition in early September, Greene clocked the fastest 100 m of the year—9.86 seconds.



ALEXANDER KARELIN, RUSSIA

In the world of Greco-Roman wrestling, Alexander Karelin is so good, he has a name earned after him. The pro wrestler body lift, or "Kartan Lift," is performed by grabbing an opponent around the hips and thundering him down to the canvas on his back. This move has helped the 35-year-old remain undefeated at the international level for more than a decade—which includes nine world championships and three Olympic golds. Karelin last lost a match in 1987. Since then, few opponents have been able to last the full six minutes on the mat with Karelin, let alone challenge his supremacy.





Guide to the Games

SEPT. 15 TO 16 Women's triathlon final, swimming (women's 400-m individual medley—M—and 4 x 100-m free relay final), men's 400-m free and 4 x 100-m free relay final, men's gymnastics, women's basketball, boxing, women's and men's cycling, women's beach volleyball and women's water polo (Canada versus Russia).

SEPT. 16 TO 17 Men's triathlon final, swimming (women's 100-m butterfly and 400-m freestyle final and men's 200-m breaststroke and 400-m IM final), softball (Canada versus U.S.), men's basketball (Canada versus Australia), men's beach volleyball, gymnastics, rowing and cycling.

SEPT. 17 TO 18 Swimming (women's 100-m back and breaststroke final and men's 200-m free and 100-m back final), canoe/kayak (men's slalom C-1 final, women's slalom K-1 final), cycling (women's 3,000 individual pursuit final, women's basketball (Canada versus Serbia), women's water polo (Canada versus Kazakhstan), men's gymnastics and softball (Canada versus New Zealand).

SEPT. 18 TO 19 Swimming (women's 200-m free and 200 IM final and men's 200-m fly and 4 x 200-m free relay final), cycling (men's team pursuit final), gymnastics (women's team final), men's basketball (Canada versus Argentina) and women's water polo (Netherlands versus Canada).

SEPT. 19 TO 20 Swimming (women's 200-m fly and 4 x 200-free final, men's 200-m breast and 100-m free final), cycling (women's and men's sprint final and men's 400-m pursuit race final), canoe/kayak (men's C-2 and slalom K-1 final), gymnastics (men's individual all-around final), judo (men's 90-kg final), women's basketball (Canada versus France), women's water polo

Call them the Night Owl Games. Given the 15-hour time difference between Sydney and Canada's eastern time zone, Canadians who want to watch the Olympics live will have to do so in the wee hours. CBC and TSN plan to air 495 hours of Olympic action, showing most events live through the night and then on tape—in highlights or in full—each day. (By contrast, NBC will offer Americans nothing but taped coverage.) Following on the Games' dates and some of the high-profile events being contested, broadcast schedules vary each day, so consult local listings for exact times in your area.

(Canada versus Australia) softball (Canada versus Italy) and men's and women's singles tennis.

SEPT. 20 TO 21 Swimming (women's 200-m breast and 300-m free final and men's 200-m back and 200-m IM final), cycling (women's 25-km points race final and men's Madison and team time trial), gymnastics (women's individual all-around final), judo (men's 100-kg final), softball (Canada versus Japan) and men's and women's singles tennis.

SEPT. 21 TO 22 Swimming (women's 200-m back and 600-m free final and men's 100-m fly and 50-m free final), basketball and field (men's shot put and 20-km walk final), women's basketball (Canada versus Slovakia), water polo (women's semi-final), softball (Canada versus Cuba) and men's and women's doubles tennis.

SEPT. 22 TO 23 Swimming (women's 50-m and 4 x 100-m medley relay final, men's 1,500-m free and 4 x 100-m medley relay final), rowing (women's cross-country race final), rowing (women's and men's single sculls final), women's and men's doubles sculls final, women's and men's doubles polo final, women's and men's coxless four final, cox and field (women's 100-m final and men's 100-m and javelin final), synchronized diving (women's three-meter final and men's 10-m final), softball (Canada versus China), men's basketball

(Canada versus Russia) and tennis (various matches).

SEPT. 23 TO 24 Track and field (heptathlon 800-m final, women's marathon and triple-jump final, men's high jump, 110-m hurdles and hammer final), rowing (women's and men's light double sculls final, men's light coxless four final, women's and men's quad sculls final and women's and men's eights final), diving (women's 10-m final), gymnastics (men's floor, pommel horse and rings final and women's vault and uneven bars final), mountain biking (men's cross-country final), women's basketball (Canada versus Brazil), men's beach volleyball (semi-final) and men's and women's singles tennis.

SEPT. 24 TO 25 Track and field (women's 400-m, 800-m, 5,000-m and pole-vault final and men's decathlon, pole jump, 110-m hurdles and 10 000-m final), gymnastics (men's vault, pommel horse and horizontal bar final and women's beam and floor final), sailing (Sloop races final, men's basketball (Canada versus Argentina) and men's and women's singles tennis.

SEPT. 25 TO 26 Softball (gold-medal game), cycling (women's road race final), synchronized swimming (duet final), beach volleyball (men's final), diving (men's three-meter final) and tennis (various matches).

SEPT. 26 TO 27 Track and field (women's 100-m and 400-m

hurdles and discus final and men's 400-m hurdles and 800-m final), cycling (men's road race final), sailing (men's and women's 470 final), baseball (gold-medal game) and tennis (various matches).

SEPT. 27 TO 28 Track and field (women's 20-km walk, 200-m and shot-put final, decathlon 1,800-m final and men's long-jump final), canoe/kayak (women's and men's semi-final), synchronized diving (men's three-meter final), diving (women's three-meter final), equestrian (team jumping final) and tennis (various matches).

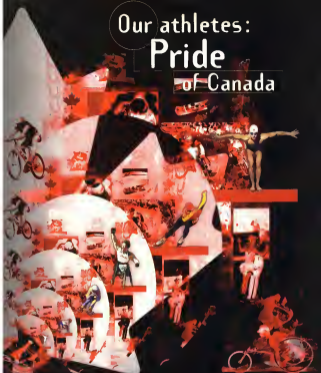
SEPT. 28 TO 29 Track and field (men's 50-km walk, pole vault, 3,000-m steeplechase and 1,800-m final and women's hammer and long-jump final), synchronized diving (women's three-meter final and men's 10-m final), synchronized swimming (women's free routine final), men's soccer (final) and tennis (various matches).

SEPT. 29 TO 30 Track and field (women's 4 x 100-m and 4 x 400-m relay, high jump, 10,000-m, javelin and 1,500-m final and men's 4 x 100-m and 4 x 400-m relay and 5,000-m final), boxing (various weight-divisions final), canoe/kayak (K-1 500-m, K-2 500-m and various other final), cycling (women's and men's time-trial final), sailing (various final), women's basketball (gold-medal game), diving (men's 10-m platform final), the four do (women's and men's final) and men's soccer.

SEPT. 30 TO OCT. 1 Basketball (men's gold-medal game), boxing (all weight divisions final), canoe/kayak (women's sprint double final), wrestling (men's freestyle final), men's marathon and men's soccer final.

OCT. 1 Closing ceremony

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Smell? What smell?

Said to say, the stink lingers, like something the dog did. You clean and scrub and deodorize, but still you smell it. Nearly two years since the first whiff of scandal wafted out of Salt Lake City, the very word "Olympics" will evoken those freckled, old Scandinavia globe-trotting fur goodies under the sister banner of the International Olympic Committee. From city to town, they flow, first-class all the way, skidding from long limousines to five-star splendour, dining in sumptuous style and casually accepting the supplicants' gifts of jewelry or cars or even, oh, say, a job or university scholarship for the kid or how about free plastic surgery for the wife? And if you couldn't make the mid-carpet ride, well, you could always trade in the plane ticket for cold cash.



Such was the five-ring Olympic circus under the august stewardship of Juan Antonio Samaranch, the IOC chief who used to work for the fascist Franco and was formerly called "your excellency." Samaranch didn't capture the Nobel Peace Prize he'd once campaigned for, but when the stench of scandal blew in his direction, he did win the lockstep support of his grateful brigade—an 80-to-2 vote of confidence. His outside critics weren't as sanguine, but when his ruling class ever sufficed the affairs?

So here we are, with the on-field Games about to begin, and the Olympics would be easy to hate if they weren't as damned easy to love.

Look at it this way or learn the begwigs have left corner stage. Some have left altogether after an investigation headed by Dick Pound—IOC, vice-president and Montreal's own—nave members have quit or been kicked out, four got off with warnings and two died before anyone could lay a hand on them. Samaranch has called a halt to the lavish and lucrative bid-city wars. End of story? Unfortunately, no. Last month, after pleading innocent to bribery charges in bugging the 2002 Games, Salt Lake bid-commitee VP Dave Johnson insisted there was nothing wrong with using money to win votes, it was simply part of Olympic culture. And his lawyer threatened to dish dirt on more IOC members than just the 15 named in the indictment.

Not exactly a breath of fresh air. And yet—well, so what? Who cares? We should care, of course, and we do, we do, but doesn't the IOC scandal seem somehow irrelevant just now? Isn't it a fact, as we prepare to surrender to two weeks of Olympic overkill (the climax of the much-longer onslaught of corporate incontinence, the sponsors finding plenty of lustre left on those tarnished O-rings), that we'll ignore anything for the sake of gloriously hawking bodies and the occasional award of *O Canada* at the podium?

Look at Canada's alternate Olympic nightmare, the sign of

steroid-fuelled Ben Johnson a dozen years ago in Seoul, Victor to villain in one infamous encounter with a urine bottle, setting delirious Canadians to madly weeping and eventually to airing dirty little drug secrets in a parking garage. Now fast-forward to 1996: Seizey Atlanta this time. And here comes Donovan Bailey running to 100-m gold, and passing his drug test, and Canada goes stark mad with a burst of unabashed patriotism mixed with relief and vindication.

That's the thing about sports, Olympic or otherwise. Baseball laid its Black Sox fix back in 1919, but the sight of burly-legged Babe Ruth lashing majestic flies out of the yard brought the first flooding back, wide-eyed with wonder—you couldn't fake homers like that. More recently, it was Cal Ripken Jr. from Man quets, then the Mark McGwire-and-Sam Rice show that laid the 1994 strike to rest. Hockey has sustained black eye after black eye—slash after slash, concussion after concussion—and still the faithful come, eager as children for the new pretty goal or bruising body check.

Sport transcends. It transports. It speeds up in speeding like a sprinter, flying like a dove. It introduces us to fellow human beings, people like us only a few times, as they take the ultimate test of their young lives, the dream of years of sweat played out before billions of viewers. This is not Risky TV, starring the likes of Ripken, Caroline Bruner, cyclist Alison Sykes, rower Jennie Meyer, runner Bailey and Brian Storer, swimmer Jonnie Miller and Curtis Myden. We'll be telling them by their first names soon. We'll talk about them as if they were the neighbours' kids.

OK, so there will be cheaters. In July, Dr. Wade Ennis, co-director of the U.S. Olympic Committee's drug-control program, alleged in a lawsuit that American athletes have gone unopposed despite using positive for banned substances at national trials—and then have proceeded to win Olympic medals. There was "a distinct possibility," Ennis added, that such athletes would compete in Sydney. A few of named athletes—will no doubt be caught, a prospect enhanced by the IOC's decision to test for the performance-booster EPO. (Tilley, Chubb, some out 27 athletes last week, most after positive EPO tests.) Many will slip through, though, and we work know the score-free offenders from the truly innocent and we'll have to accept that and enjoy the Games anyway, just as we ignore the stink of the payola scandal.

And we will—oh, we will. Because they're mostly kids out there and they look so bloody beautiful and proud and happy and most compete clean—with pure hearts and Olympian dreams—and they do such amazing things. That's enough, isn't it? It's an imperfect world. We'll take our joy where we find it.

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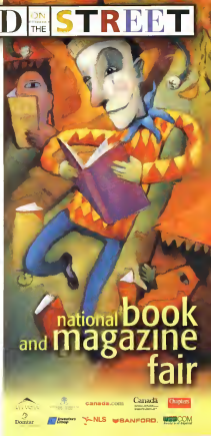
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Allan Fotheringham

Watching the NDP die

It was **Bruce Hatchison**, the sage of Canadian journalism, who labelled the province beyond the mountains Lanceland. Hatch was the sage because he spent almost his whole career writing in his garden in Victoria. At one stage, he was editor of the *Wingspan Free Press* while sipping—he knew about those wines and those mosquitoes—in that Victorian garden. There was a wise man.

He got Lanceland, of course, from Greek mythology, the land of the lotus-eaters. Where else do you find a paradise where three mortal princes have not been allowed to finish their terms in office before resigning, and a fourth has ruined the faculty repeat on with a mid scandal over insider trading that allowed millionaires to make more millions.

Your faithful agent, on his island in the Pacific for the annual bean masquerade, finds—a word—that the locals have gone crazy. The threat this season are those dreadful Jet Skis with youthful yahoos bent on raising the cadavers of innocent cottagers. The revenge! The deadly poison gun.

Enraged islanders, with the help of a local handyman, are buying by the dozens the weapon to eradicate the Jet Ski plague. It resembles a banana, some five feet in length. Down the muzzle goes the poison (the lethal specimen much favoured locally). The handyman is then ignored (I am not making this up) by putting a match to the aerosol from a can of Vidal Sassoon hairspray. The resulting explosion marks the deer on the hillside and, with proper lead time and luck, drives off a now-defunct cottage.

This is just a minor sport in a paradise where political calamity is a predictable rain. The major sport is watching the death of a once-great party. Political suicide, unfortunately, is a reassuring thing when done in public. The stumbling, floundering government of rookie Premier Ujjal Dombey is waning in the wind, its death rattle getting louder each week as it sways a spring election it cannot avoid.

The coppers here just celebrated the first anniversary of the unleashing of the supremely cocky Glen Clark, previous proprietor of the disaster, by announcing that they are extending their criminal investigation. Just to help the celebration along, the NDP government has finally announced that its proud creation—now known as the Glendogge—is even more of a fox than previously revealed.



These would be the now-famous "fast ferries" that were going to speed gleeful tourists to Vancouver Island with the speed of light. The aluminium-hulled catamarans, designed to carry 1,000 passengers and 250 cars, were to be sold world wide once their phenomenal new design had dazzled the world on the hot route to the Nanaimo ferry piers.

Only problem, after the \$210-million budget for the three prototypes ended up at \$460 million, was that the PacificCat ferries proved faster than Glen's tongue. At a top speed of 37 knots—some 68 km/h—the wonder boats churned up a huge wake that sent the tolls, upping their cost on island docks, into apoplexy. Dogs and cats were swept into the sea. A sheegish B.C. Ferry Corp. has now announced that the named *PhillyCats* now up for sale at \$40 million apiece with no buyers, have been purposely slowed and make the point across Georgia Strait at the same leisurely speed as the fat old ferries they were to replace.

Nothing seems to work for poor Dombey, a police chap who seems to be awaiting a return of fortunes as Clark now awakes at him from deep in the back benches. The government, for some strange reason, announces it will raise the provincial minimum wage—already the highest in the land—to 38 an hour. This would seem puzzling, since those at the bottom of the economic scale are usually figured to be beyond NDP voters in the first place. How many additional votes are to be gained while further angering the business community?

Victoria proclaims that the number of welfare recipients is at its lowest percentage in two decades and is headed down, but no one pays any attention because no one believes any numbers that come out of Victoria anymore. The floundering government proudly announces that it has finally balanced its financial books. But after the celebrated Fudge-it Budget of Clark's reign—a source of wonder to accountants everywhere—the figures are regarded with the same degree of credibility as the fast ferries that are going nowhere except to the accountant's blackboard.

The doctors are threatening to go on strike. The same people are throwing up neckbeats, as is the current flavour of the season. Hatchison, in his grave, would regard the porters as the only proper weapon for the proceedings in his beloved province that is slightly mad.

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